

## Preview

Art London's fringe theatres as forbidding as they may seem to the average West End theatre-goer? Today's Preview page guide to Britain's entertainment and the arts in Britain identifies the best, brightest and the most provocative members of the volatile fringe scene. Preview also contains full information about films, theatre, music, exhibitions, family outings, sports and broadcasting in the coming week.

## Leyland strike uproar

Strikers at the Leyland truck plant in Lancashire are to return to work on Monday after a mass meeting which ended in uproar when a comical vote was taken on the outcome. The verdict was later reversed. Colleagues at Chorley are also ending their strike. Workers at Bathgate in Scotland vote today. Page 2

## Tube disaster in Moscow

Many workers were killed or injured when a staircase collapsed during the rush-hour at the Aviamotorists underground station in northern Moscow on Wednesday evening. The station is on a recently opened line.

## £1m boost for London Zoo

The London Zoo, which asked for government aid last year after reporting a £500,000 deficit for 1980, is to receive an emergency cash advance "not expected to exceed" £1m. Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said in the Commons.

**Football chiefs facing their crisis**  
Crisis in Football is a full-page analysis of the problems facing Football League chairman at their seminar in Solihull this weekend

Page 19

**Kincora inquiry**  
A public inquiry chaired by a High Court Judge will investigate the circumstances of the homosexual scandal at Kincora boys' home, Belfast, when police investigations are concluded. Mr James Prior told Mrs

Page 2

## Madrid trial

Spanish police have been placed on maximum alert for the court martial which begins in Madrid today of three Army generals accused of plotting the overthrow of democracy in Spain a year ago. Page 6

**Share scramble**  
The Amersham International share issue was more than 20 times oversubscribed. Cheques for the issue totalling more than £1,000m put through the banking system caused a short age of bank funds. Page 15

## TROUBLED ALLIES

In the final article in a series on the state of the Atlantic Alliance, James Callaghan, the former Prime Minister, argues that the effectiveness of Nato will always be in doubt while America and Western Europe view the world in such different ways

Page 10

## In The Times tomorrow

In the country with Susan Hill: The distinguished novelist brilliantly evokes rural life in the first of a series of articles from her forthcoming book, *The Magic Apple Tree*. The Great European Eaters: Gert von Paczensky begins his side of a combined gastronomic tour of Britain by eating at Inverlochy Castle, Inverness-shire. The George Washington Scandal: Martin Cunliffe, the historian, disentangles the man from the myth.

Leader page 11  
Letters: On the rail settlement, from Mr R. J. W. Crabbe, and others; child and parent, from Dr A. M. McWhinney, and Mr K. Campbell

Leading articles: Spain; railways; gas and electricity prices; Features, pages 9, 10. The Budget measures that could bring £7,000m investment and 300,000 new jobs; David Watt puts the case for a money-saving missile; schoolboy speculation on the United States stockmarket, by Peter Watson

Obituary, page 12  
Dame Ngao Marsh, Dr Francis Heaney

## De Lorean set to call in receiver for rescue bid

By Julian Haylland, Political Editor

Agreement on a voluntary receivership for the De Lorean car company in Belfast was expected in government circles last night after talks between ministers and the company's board resumed at the Northern Ireland Office in London.

Hopes were high that a considerable part of the business could be retained, with a reduced work force.

A statement will be made in the Commons today.

A meeting convened at noon yesterday was adjourned after an hour when Mr John De Lorean was unable to prove he had "succeeded" in raising more capital privately in the United States. But the atmosphere was said to be amicable.

Discussion between the Government team, led by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and the De Lorean board was based on a report by Sir Kenneth Cork and the accountants Coopers and Lybrand on the company's past performance and future prospects.

The signs were that the two sides still differed on the probable size of the much-reduced market which Sir Kenneth believes exists in the United States.

Mr Prior was last night unconvincing. The Government's refusal, as the company's major creditor, to make more money available and was also insisting Mr De Lorean requested to restructure the company's debts or to postpone payment of loan interest. The company has received more than £50m in government aid.

With no sign of the £15m extra capital which Mr De Lorean was reported to have raised, Mr Prior and his officials argued that receivership was inevitable.

The choice, it was suggested, therefore, lay between an enforced receivership against the board's protestations with inevitably damaging consequences for the car's reputation.

Photograph, back page

## Parker defends his decision to pay up

By David Fenton

British Rail last night mounted a strong defence of its decision to pay the three per cent increase to striking footplatemen and denied accusations of retreat on yesterday's peace formula which ended the strikes.

Mrs Thatcher agreed with Mr Edward Gardner, Conservative MP for South Fylde, that the agreement should be phrased in plain English that everyone could understand.

Some MPs also called for Sir Peter's resignation. Mr George Gardiner, Tory MP for Rugeley, said: "I doubt whether the travelling public will ever forgive Sir Peter Parker for this. All their sacrifices have been in vain. The only place for him and for Kay Buckton is in the railway yard."

Sir Peter indicated at a news conference that he was not prepared to stand down for the moment from his £60,000-a-year post. The executive of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) yesterday rubber-stamped their negotiators' acceptance of the peace formula and the decision to call off the strikes, but not without a last minute hiccup.

Sir Peter's remarks had been "irresponsible". He said: "Aslef's very firm policy is against any elimination of the guaranteed eight-hour day and we shall be pursuing that policy right the way through the negotiations."

That remark led the executive to delay the decision to halt the strike and Mr Ray Buckton, Aslef general secretary, said Sir Peter's remarks had been "irresponsible". He said: "Aslef's very firm policy is against any elimination of the guaranteed eight-hour day and we shall be pursuing that policy right the way through the negotiations."

Sir Peter said the Aslef strike had cost BR about £50m in revenue and an uncalculated sum in freight losses now lost to the railways. The consequence of this will be that 3,000 more jobs will have to disappear from the industry on

Sting in the tail, page 2  
Leading article, page 11

Continued on back page, col 3

# Judge to head boys' home investigation

From Nicholas Timmins, Belfast

A High Court judge is to head a public inquiry into the scandal at Kinvara boys' home in Belfast but not until police inquiries into homosexual activities there and at other homes have been completed.

The move was announced by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday as Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, announced that a chief constable from outside was to be brought in to investigate allegations that the RUC was involved in a cover-up.

Sir John said that to allay public concern he had asked the Inspector of Constabulary to appoint an outside officer who would have access to all papers, past and present, as well as general oversight of the continuing investigations.

Mr Prior's announcement goes much of the way to meet demands for a judicial inquiry after the original investigation, held in private, collapsed last week when three of the investigating committee of five resigned, saying that crucial criminal aspects of the affair had still to be examined.

The inquiry's precise terms of reference and its powers will be decided after police investigations and criminal

proceedings are completed.

Five people have been jailed so far for sexual offences in boys' homes. Those include the warden, deputy warden and Mr William McGrath, a house father at Kinvara, who received a total of 12 years' imprisonment for offences including buggery, gross indecency and indecent assault.

Yesterday's moves were welcomed by Mr Gerard Fitt, Independent Socialist MP for Belfast, West.

Mr Fitt, who has been calling for a judicial inquiry, said the RUC had responded well, but "where were they between 1961 and 1980 when allegations were first put to the authorities?"

The public inquiry was a big improvement on the previous inquiry, but he was anxious there should be no delay.

He said he also wanted the inquiry to have powers to compel those in prison, as well as Mr Colin Wallace, a former Army press officer, who is said to have told journalists in 1975 that the Army knew that Mr McGrath was a homosexual, to attend.

Mr Wallace is serving a prison sentence in England for a manslaughter offence

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### Court curb on Minster homes plan

A High Court judge yesterday granted a temporary injunction on Beverley borough council, Humberside, from considering an application for detailed planning permission for a housing estate near the Minster (John Young writes).

The scheme by the St Andrew Street Housing Co-operative has caused prolonged controversy, and was the subject of a number of letters to *The Times* last year.

As well as complaints that the development would ruin a historic and cherished view, there were allegations that the council had acted improperly. They were supported by the local Ombudsman, who accused the council of maladministration.

### Jobless cost up by £420m

The Treasury disclosed yesterday that it had provided an extra £420,000,000 for supplementary benefits and supplementary pensions for the present financial year, giving a total estimated expenditure of £4,983m for the year.

A large proportion of the increase was accounted for by the fact that more people have remained unemployed for longer than expected.

### Tories' new plea for Invincible

A further protest against the proposed sale of HMS Invincible was made by 20 Conservative backbenchers in a Commons motion last night. They said they opposed the proposal with alarm and called on the Government to allocate additional resources, estimated at £170m to the Ministry of Defence.

### The flu virus: A miserable miscalculation

In yesterday's report on the influenza epidemic, an accompanying diagram said 20,000 of the A-strain of the virus could fit in the area of the black square above. The article greatly underrated the virus indeed the diagram was out by a factor of 5,593,580,000,000,000, about 3,600 million can fit in this area.

The diagrammists apologize to all influenza sufferers; and the medical correspondent who was not responsible for the error—reports the better news that this year, because the strain has shown little variation from last year, the vaccine used by commercial companies is expected to give 70 per cent protection. The vaccine, to be effective, must have been given one month before exposure to infection, and young people and others who had previous attacks are advised to have two injections.

### YOU CAN STOP SMOKING

Why Do I Smoke? is a unique, personalized course developed by the Health Education Division of Medical Computing Services in conjunction with doctors and consultants to help you give up smoking.

Printed by computer to match your own needs, the five monthly instalments are posted to you and cover a wide range of topics including why you smoke, what smoking does to you and how to stop.

SEE for full details and your application form:  
Why Do I Smoke? Medical Computing Services Ltd., Dept. T  
PO Box 12, Dinton, Oxfordshire OX11 8HN



Vote protest: Leyland workers surrounding Mr. Michael Coyne after his declaration of the result yesterday.

## Leyland strike ends in uproar

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Strikers at the Leyland truck factory in Lancashire are to return to work on Monday after a confused mass meeting yesterday at which the works convenor at one stage declared the vote to be overwhelmingly in favour of continuing the stoppage.

The meeting ended in uproar when Mr Michael Coyne, the convenor, announced the result. Many of the 7,500 strikers surged towards the platform, claiming Mr Coyne had manipulated the vote. He was booted and jeered for more than 30 minutes and some workers alleged that he had tried to

force the company to close. Mr Coyne conceded afterwards that his verdict may have been "a little exaggerated" and his decision was later reversed with an announcement that the vote was in favour of ending the strike.

The final interpretation of the vote was welcomed by BL last night. It had said that continuance of the strike, over-planned redundancies and restructuring of the commercial vehicle operation, would

Workers at the Broughton plant in West Lothian, Scot-

land, are to meet today. As they went on strike in support of their Leyland colleagues, it is thought they might also vote to return to work.

The BL board was standing by for an emergency meeting to announce closures and possibly liquidation if the strike vote went against the company's plans.

Meanwhile, 1,500 strikers at the Chorley plant in Lancashire and 1,750 white collar staff have also agreed to return to work next week.

BL said that given a return to work vote at Broughton "all of us at Leyland Vehicles must press ahead without delay with the task of winning back lost customers".

The mass meetings came after the breakdown of talks between the management and the company's rejected alternative strategy, which it said, would cost £500m to implement over the next five years. Leyland has been losing £2m a week in recent months, largely because of the drop in demand for heavy trucks.

There is no rule to prevent a college from accepting any student for whatever reason, provided it satisfies the minimum requirement. Nor is there any rule to prevent a college from accepting money in return for a student place.

However, Mr Peter Gwyn, a research fellow in history at Wadham, said last night: "This is the unacceptable face of Oxbridge. It is not a finishing school for millionaires' children."

"But if you are going to do it is absolutely right that it should be made public. Perhaps Oxbridge should introduce a special category of students: children of wealthy benefactors."

"If you are going to allow any student to enter Oxbridge because their parents are prepared to give large sums of money, the notion that Oxford or Cambridge are academic places goes out of the window."

## An Oxford college 'sells' two places

By Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

An Oxford college has agreed to accept two Hong Kong students without their taking the University entrance examination provided they get minimum university matriculation requirements of two grade Es at A level, in return for a £250,000 gift to the college from their father.

It is understood that similar deals, including ones with wealthy British parents, are being considered by other colleges in Oxford and Cambridge. Other hard-pressed universities may be tempted to follow suit.

One don at Wadham, the college in question, threatened to resign unless the college made public its agreement with Mr Lee Shau Kee, a businessman involved in land and property investment in Hong Kong.

Sir Stuart Hampshire, Warden of Wadham, has now issued a statement, saying that over the years the college had received substantial gifts from an overseas benefactor who had now promised "a further very substantial benefaction" to provide student accommodation, of which the college was in urgent need.

"This help is in the present situation, of the highest value, particularly given government policy towards environmental assessment techniques. Above all, it will be a major step in the programme," said Sir Stuart.

A seven-year study programme was launched to gather the necessary data for working out such details as permitted harvest levels and routine environmental assessment techniques. Above all, it will be a major step in the programme.

The Inuits of northern

## Inuit is not a choosy eater, study shows

By Tony Samstag

When the interests of indigenous people in wilderness areas come into conflict with the aspirations of the developers, the outcome is usually predictable.

The experience of the Inuits (Eskimos) of northern Quebec may be the exception that proves the rule, however, and in the process provides a valuable lesson in the compatibility of development and conservation.

In 1974, the Inuits and Crees of the region stopped the building of a large hydroelectric complex because of its probable effect on traditional hunting and fishing territories.

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The Inuits of northern Quebec harvest more than 3.4 million lb of protein each year, or enough for 33lb a person a day. The figure represents 28 species of mammals, fish and birds, of which 5 supply more than three quarters of the total. In weight, 17,000 ringed seals (19.8 per cent), 13,400 Arctic char (19.1), 4,500 caribou (18.3), 546 beluga whales (10.9), and 1,400 bearded seals (9.6).

The study programme to date has also yielded base maps of hunting territories by species and season, detailed interviews with individual hunters and estimates of land-use intensity. Field studies have been carried out in the Inuit communities of Great Whale River, Fort Chimo, Coats River and Akulivik. The next phase of the study is likely to produce comprehensive ecological maps.

Source: World Wildlife Fund Project 1974: Canada, Land and Resource Use: among Inuits (WWF, Panda House, 11-13 Oxford Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1QU free.)

## Irish voters move to new contest

From Richard Ford, Dublin

As the votes cast in the general election were being counted today, Irish eyes were turning to an arguably more important contest tomorrow. The rugby international between Ireland and Scotland, which offers the tantalizing prospect of bringing the triple crown to the Irish Republic for the first time in 33 years, is attracting big interest, with £8 tickets selling at £50 on the black market.

A victory is the result that really matters to any Irishman, whatever his politics. Even Fine Gael, with a touch of flattery, has got in on the act with an advertisement on the back page of a Dublin evening newspaper declaring: "FitzGerald to lead Ireland to victory. Vote for Ireland's winning team. Vote Fine Gael".

It is not lost on anyone that the captain of Ireland's rugby team has the same name as the Prime Minister.

The first election result will be known this afternoon. However, it could be tomorrow before any clear victor emerges.

Police are likely to speak to Mr Stuart Carter, a WRP supporter in his early 20s, who is said to be responsible for the building and who encouraged Miss Hardy to stand in the centre with a number of her friends.

Miss Hardy (whose real name is being withheld at her request) said she was at a discotheque in a school near by last June when Mr Carter approached her with leaflets and a form inviting her to attend the youth centre.

After attending on several occasions, Miss Hardy, who is now employed to help handicapped children in the South-east, was visited at home by Mr Carter, who invited her to a discotheque in a school near by last June when Mr Carter approached her with leaflets and a form inviting her to attend the youth centre.

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## Filly under restraint bit off its tongue

From Arthur Osman, Lichfield

A two-year-old filly bit off more than five inches of its tongue when it reared while a farrier was holding the tongue to restrain the animal. He was restraining the filly so that his colleague could trim its hooves. Lichfield magistrates were told yesterday.

One witness said that the filly was guillotined by the farrier's singeing teeth. Mrs Janet Roberts, the horse's owner, said: "When they started she was in one piece and when they finished had five and a half inches of her tongue in my fridge at home."

Alan Ashford, aged 32, of Barnetts Lane, Brougham, West Midlands, was found guilty of causing the animal unnecessary suffering. His father, William Kenneth Ashford, aged 57, of Ogley Road, Brougham, was found guilty of aiding and abetting him. They were each fined £250 and were also ordered to pay £140 costs each.

Expert witnesses called by the RSPCA, which brought the case, told the court that they had never come across such a method of restraint.

The filly, named Warlock Blue Sky is granddaughter of the Queen's champion Cleveland bay, Mulgrave Supreme. It can no longer graze and has to be hand fed from a bucket by Mrs Roberts and her daughter Jane, aged 13, who live at Medway Street, Chasetown, West Midlands.

Bill Warratt

McCarthy's recommendations are followed, will meet by March 19 at the latest. Aslef will then be faced with giving evidence in support of the new rosters while continuing its "unwavering" commitment to defend the eight-hour day.

The statement that signalled the end of the strikes said: "All the unions have accepted the McCarthy report as finalised, without qualification, including confirmation of our demand for legal services of this kind in prisons".

He emphasizes that the

objective is to provide legal

advice on matters arising outside the prison, and not worries or complaints over prison treatment.

## Prisons may have duty solicitors

By Frances Gabb

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, has told the Prison Department to reconsider setting up a duty solicitor scheme in prisons after representations from MPs and from Lord Benson, chairman of the Royal Commission on Legal Services.

Initially, the Home Office's proposed department had rejected the idea of a pilot scheme for duty solicitors to work on a rota basis in prisons, as proposed by the Manchester Legal Services Committee, a group of lawyers and laymen monitoring legal services in the area.

It also rejected a proposal from Wandsworth Legal Resource Project to set up a lawyers' surgery, where one or two solicitors would work full-time in Wandsworth prison.

The reason in both cases was that although the Home Office did not object in principle, it was unwilling to embark on experiments which would raise further demands on staff.

But in a letter to Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, chairman of the all-party parliamentary penal affairs group, Mr Whitelaw states: "I am asking my officials to examine carefully the practicalities of mounting an experimental scheme, or schemes, precisely to test the extent of the effect it would have on our resources and to make an assessment of the extent of unmet demand for legal services of this kind in prisons".

He emphasizes that the

objective is to provide legal

advice on matters arising outside the prison, and not worries or complaints over prison treatment.

None of the unions is seeking to impose on the British Railways Board any condition or any limitation on the issues that can be examined in negotiation or if necessary referred to arbitration in accordance with the terms laid down in the report.

However, the sting of this dispute may be in the tail for Aslef.

By accepting the McCarthy report, the management and unions have agreed that the vexed issue of flexible rostering will go through the industry's negotiating machinery culminating in a hearing at the Railway Staff National Tribunal, the "final appeal court". That body which is also headed by Lord McCarthy, will rule on British Rail's proposals for the implementation rather than the principle of flexible rostering.

The management has reached agreement with the other unions on new rosters involving seven to nine-hour shifts in an eight-week cycle, linked to the introduction of the 39-hour week.

The 39-hour week is still being denied to Aslef until the new rosters are accepted and the tribunal, it

is hoped, will rule on the issue of whether the new rosters are binding, because to do otherwise would be to negate its arguments throughout the dispute.

The union would also be under pressure to accept any findings of the tribunal, even if those findings are not binding, because to do otherwise would be to negate its arguments throughout the

Inuit is no  
a choosy  
eater. Studi  
shows

## Cabinet seems to have shelved rating reform

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Cabinet seems to have abandoned hope of passing legislation to reform the rating system during the present Parliament. Senior ministers, after reluctantly concluding that there is not enough time to agree on an alternative system, are considering ways of presenting a revised commitment to reform at the next general election.

They accept that, having failed to come up with an answer in its previous term of office, the Government would need something more than a simple manifesto pledge for the promise of reform to carry credibility with the electorate.

One strong possibility canvassed by senior ministers is that, on the assumption that some form of consensus emerges between now and the election, a draft rates reform Bill will be included in the next manifesto.

Another, less likely option, is that that Bill would be introduced, with no prospect of enactment, in the final session of this Parliament which, if the Government runs near to its full course, would begin in the autumn of 1983.

That session will inevitably be truncated by the dissolution, and legislation on such an important subject would have no chance of getting through in time. The likelihood of a Bill in the next session starting next autumn has all but disappeared.

Ministers and most Conservative MPs are committed to rate system reform, but have found it impossible to agree on what should replace it. During the election campaign in October, 1974, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, then Opposition environment spokesman, made a personal pledge to abolish the rates.

The Conservative manifesto then stated: "Within the normal lifetime of a Parliament we shall abolish the domestic rating system and replace it by taxes more broadly based and related to people's ability to pay."

In the last manifesto the commitment was modified: "Cutting income tax must

take priority for the time being over abolition of the domestic rating system".

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

Girls at Bullwood Hall borstal in Essex, which has become notorious as Britain's most "violent and troubled prison establishment", are furious about a paper issued last week which said the place should be closed.

Keep Out, a new pressure group, described Bullwood as a "stark and isolated establishment" where girls faced "a sentence of despair".

But if that is the truth, it is not the whole truth, as a visit there this week established.

Dr Rowland Berry, the visiting psychiatrist who is quoted as saying that Bullwood was probably the most difficult establishment in the United Kingdom, also said it was a caring community. He told me: "Many more girls cry when they leave than when they come."

One girl, who has been in care since the age of 11, said: "This place is magic. It is just like a children's home." She was being cuddled by a motherly prison officer.

A girl aged 16, in for criminal damage and assault on the police, showed me a letter she had written to *The Times* saying: "Did the report mention girls trying to prolong their stay because they become attached to staff and girls?"

She said some deliberately got into trouble to try to get their sentences extended.

The girls agree that some tattooing takes place, but they maintain that stories of other forms of self-mutilation are much exaggerated. A girl, aged 18, who admitted becoming a burglar when she was mine, said that her tattoos, done before coming to Bullwood, were "to make me look big". The girls' tattoos are examined on admission to see if others are added while they are inside.

Another 18-year-old, in for taking away a car and burglary, showed me her bandaged arm and said she had cut herself with a toothpaste tube until she bled. "It just came into my head." She said she did it because staff would not believe her when, on arrival, she said she had a period and so could not have a VD examination.

Dr Perry said he had come across one girl with 17 foreign bodies, needles, pins, and straightened-out paper clips, in her skin.

Bullwood staff cannot recall a single case of suicide there although there have been attempts.

The girls would no doubt be easier to control if drugs were used with that in mind, but Dr Berry says: "We don't give drugs much. I don't believe drugs are useful for the control of naughty behaviour."

Instead, some of the more disturbed girls are being taught how to make better cases to give as mother's day presents. And Dr Berry has set up a so-called "love department" (a psychotherapy unit) where girls are treated with more warmth and affection than might be the case outside.

Two well-known girls about town, as Dr Berry introduced them, had 21 "levels between them. Another asked a prison officer for a book on neo-realism, which she is going to buy.

## Hope behind the despair of Bullwood

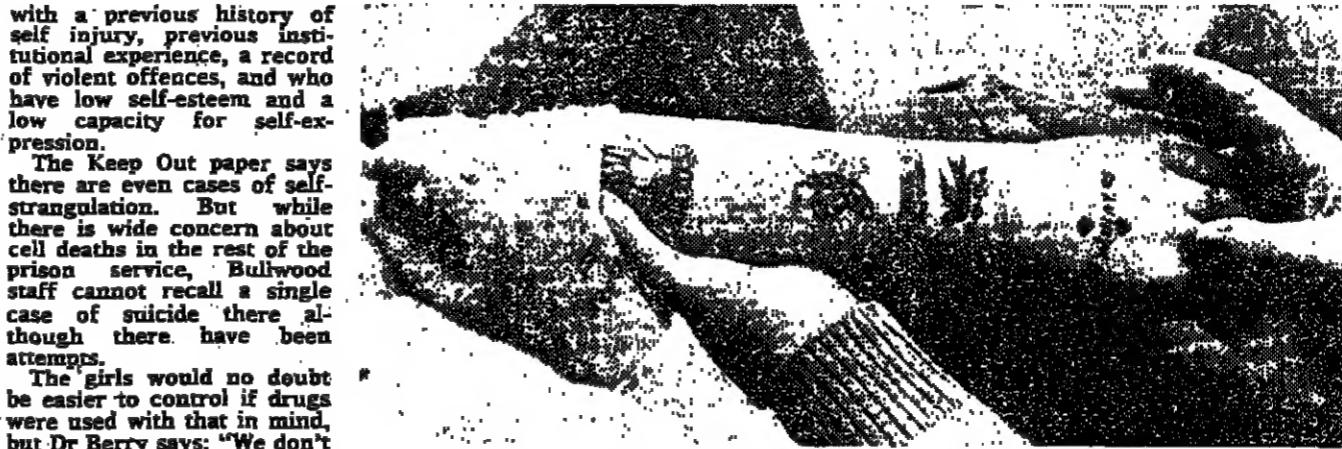
By Brian Hales

Photo: Brian Hales

6



Taking care: Bullwood girls can find more attention than they get outside. Below, tattoos are inspected on arrival to monitor self-mutilation.



Monitoring self-mutilation.

with a previous history of self-injury, previous institutional experience, a record of violent offences, and who have low self-esteem and a low capacity for self-expression.

The Keep Out paper says there are even cases of self-strangulation. But while there is wide concern about cell deaths in the rest of the prison service, Bullwood staff cannot recall a single case of suicide there although there have been attempts.

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Perhaps the best recommendation for the job Bullwood tries to do is the number of cards and poems girls send staff.

Forty-five per cent of the girls are reconvicted after 12 months, according to the psychologist's figures.

But there are grounds for criticism which Keep Out did

not mention. Bullwood is suffering a serious staff shortage because the new Holloway Prison is being given priority after a recruiting ban.

Bullwood is a penal dustbin in the sense that nowhere else will take one of the most troubled and volatile populations in the penal system.

Lord Thomson of Monifieth, Chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, has refused to censor *Spooner's Patch*, a programme about the Police made by Central Independent Television Ltd. Mrs Mary Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers and Listeners Association, had complained that the programme presented the police as "thoroughly corrupt and promiscuous".

## Whitehouse rebuffed

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## Drug squad knew of heroin ring

From Our Correspondent  
Sheffield

A couple lived a life of luxury running a drugs "supermarket" from a rented flat while drugs squad officers who knew about the affair did not intervene.

Dr Walter Hasselkus, managing director of BMW (GB), said that if importers were forced to cut prices, British manufacturers would have to follow and that could be disastrous for the industry.

EL would lose even more money and Ford might close its British plants he said. The loss of jobs in an industry where 330,000 workers were made redundant last year would be terrifying, he said.

Dr Hasselkus said the prices of British-built cars were high because manufacturers were not competitive on either productivity or efficiency. He added: "We importers have to price our cars according to what we would damage the British car industry and therefore the British economy".

Dr Hasselkus said BMW could reduce its prices in Britain by 10 per cent and still be profitable.

If the European Economic Community insisted on reducing price differentials, the process would have to be spread over five years to minimise dislocation to the whole European car industry.

The following table shows the prices of BMW cars in Britain and West Germany. The German prices have been converted to sterling at 4.5 marks to the pound.

Model	U.K.	W. Germany
320	£7,775	£4,856
520	£11,255	£8,756
628CSi	£16,965	£11,256
735i	£18,155	£16,785

## BMW chief defends price policy

By Patrick Waymark  
Motoring Correspondent

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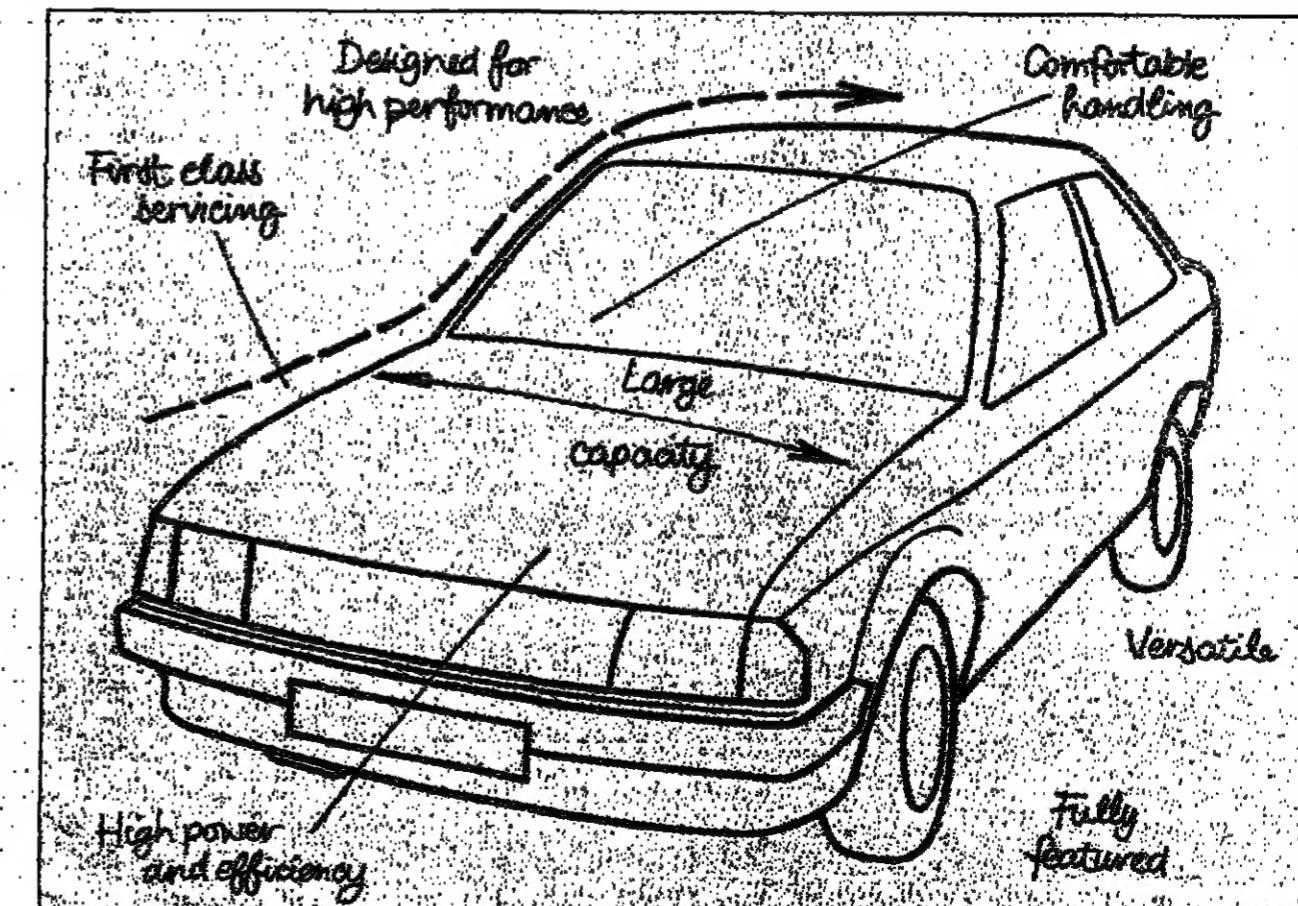
Dr Hasselkus said the prices of British-built cars were high because manufacturers were not competitive on either productivity or efficiency. He added: "We importers have to price our cars according to what we would damage the British car industry and therefore the British economy".

Dr Hasselkus said BMW could reduce its prices in Britain by 10 per cent and still be profitable.

If the European Economic Community insisted on reducing price differentials, the process would have to be spread over five years to minimise dislocation to the whole European car industry.

The following table shows the prices of BMW cars in Britain and West Germany. The German prices have been converted to sterling at 4.5 marks to the pound.

Model	U.K.	W. Germany
320	£7,775	£4,856
520	£11,255	£8,756
628CSi	£16,965	£11,256
735i	£18,155	£16,785



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## PARLIAMENT February 18 1982

## Whitelaw says no to corporal punishment

## LAW AND ORDER

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, and Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State, Home Office, made plain to Conservative backbenchers that the Government was not proposing to reintroduce corporal punishment.

Mr Philip Holland (Carlton, C) called for its reintroduction as a means of reducing violent crime, particularly offences of mugging in the streets.

Mr Whitelaw said that corporal punishment was abandoned in 1960, and the inquiry, which in 1960 found that its reintroduction would not help, it would be wrong to do so, was completely contrary to our international obligations and so I am not considering the possibility of its reintroduction.

Mr Edward Taylor (Southend, East, C) said that shorter sentences and allied deterrents had been accompanied by a massive upsurge in crime and also appalling congestion of prisons. Why were ministers not prepared to look at corporal punishment? Since corporal punishment was abolished in the Isle of Man there has been a 78 per cent rise in crimes of violence.

Mr Whitelaw: The adviser council, which reported in 1960 took account of the views of the public that corporal punishment should be reintroduced. It examined comprehensive research on the subject. As to the

deterrent effect, the council concluded judicial corporal punishment was not an especially effective deterrent.

Mr Mayhew: It was thought a good thing when the European Court of Human Rights pronounced against the closed shop last year. We must take care we are not seen to be in favour of the part of the law that favours us.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield Hillsborough, Lab): A powerful section of the Tory Party still believes in 1982 that they can流氓 into submission.

Mr Albert Costain (Folkestone and Hythe, C): Far be it from me to differ from a minister such as the Home Secretary by a constituent of mine suggesting that rape is such a dreadful crime that castration is the only proper remedy? Well not that a punishment fitting the crime.

Mr Whitelaw: While sympathising with the sense of alarm that inspired what lay behind his constituents suggestion, I think there might be certain practical problems that would attend that.

Mr Flannery: particularly mugging and the raping of even frail and elderly women and young children had soared. Mrs Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgbaston, C) claimed during exchanges on the number of indictable offences committed last year.

She called for measures by which this could be countered and reversed. She urged the reintroduction of discipline in

schools, the strengthening of the family unit and a greater deterrent effect. The more lightly we treat criminals (she said) the more criminals there would be.

Mr Mayhew said the areas affected by the inquiry had been faced upon the problem of crime and its increase. The criminal Justice Bill gave a substantially wider range of penalties, including custodial and non-custodial penalties to the court.

As such the punishment being imposed by magistrates on violent offenders were proving an effective deterrent, Mr Mayhew said. In combating violent crime, sentencing policy is an important part of the law. While the deterrent effect of any sentence is not readily measured, the Home Secretary has no doubt that magistrates are giving full weight to the principle of deterrence.

Mr Jocelyn Cadbury (Birmingham, Northfield, C): In the Midlands there is increasing anxiety about the rise in violent crime. The latest figures were up by 50 per cent? Did she note also the assertion by the police that these offences are increasing, with gangs of up to 50 young blacks looting shops in broad daylight?

As it is widely believed (he went on) that both the police and the prosecution in these offences are in a bind by what is loosely termed "community relations" would we have a word with the newly promulgated Minister for Race Relations who said in the press that his door is always

open.

Mr Mayhew: I am well aware of the extreme anxiety in many areas of our country at increasing violent crime. Magistrates are drawn from the community, and they live in the community. They are subject to guidance from the Lord Chief Justice and the Court of Appeal, as are all courts.

them to carry out the task placed upon them. (Conservative cheer).

Mr Ray Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said: The Home Secretary's silvery backbenchers and others are indicating that files of this sort ought to be held. Is that his own view?

Mr Whitelaw: My backbenchers are not so sure. (Laughter, Lab).

Mr Kinnock asked for an assurance that in any future arrangements for the protection of data there would be access to police files.

Mr Whitelaw: I must reserve the position until I make a statement on data protection.

For Christopher Price (Lewisham, West, Lab): Would he agree that in principle in data protection legislation, there should be no difference between access to electronic files held in computer form and access to manual files?

Mr Whitelaw: I note what he says. I must ask him to await the statement I will make on this important subject.

**Police files defended as necessary**

## HOME OFFICE

There was a considerable amount of evidence that the police held files on people who had had criminal past or propensities and it was a serious invasion of their privacy, Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk, Lab) said.

Earlier Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, had rejected a suggestion from Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk (Merton, Mitcham and Morden, Lab) that he should call for reports from chief constables to ascertain how many police forces had files on their special branches, held files, showing what proportion of these related to people with no criminal record.

Mr Douglas-Mann asked why files on individuals were not subject to scrutiny or questioning by the Home Office.

It is true (he said) that there are special branch files on over a million people. How many MPs are on them? Is the Home Secretary satisfied as to the access to them? How was "The Observer" able to obtain information about a constituent of mine who had done nothing more subversive than to be active as a student in the campaign against the South African rugby tour?

Mr Whitelaw: The Special Branch maintain records on individuals where it is necessary to establish

officers and the duties they performed.

Mr Hattersley replied: We do not consider that a review is necessary. Chief constables are to be given the power to order officers on to particular units.

Mr Shirley Summerskill, for the Opposition (Halifax, Lab): The most important qualifications for interviewing the victim of alleged rape are special training, tact, sympathy and understanding, which are found equally among men and women police officers.

All police officers, men and women, must continue to be given equal access to every type of work experience and to training and promotion prospects as provided for under the Disqualification Act.

Mr Raison: The Hebburn inquiry concluded that women police officers had been able to operate in a much wider sphere than in the past. Chief constables are able to make their own decisions on how to deploy their police officers.

Mr Hattersley (Birmingham, Sparkbrook, Lab): Every MP with ethnic minorities among his constituents has good examples of genuine visitors who wish to live here, but are prevented from doing so with little evidence to it.

Mr Raison: The average number

of visitors refused entry is only 0.25 per cent. These cases are looked at with the greatest care, with an appeal system, and ministerial attention given.

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## Greet the Pope with open hearts, Runcie tells synod

By Clifford Longley Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, yesterday called upon the Church of England to welcome the Pope to Britain in May. "We should be optimistic about the prospects of unity with the Roman Catholic Church, and not to give way to prejudice and insularity."

The archbishop's presidential address to the General Synod set out to answer some of the fears and criticisms aroused by the prospect of the papal visit. He described the Pope's acceptance of his invitation to take part in a service in Canterbury Cathedral as "unprecedented in the history of the church in the West".

He also offered his support for the recent establishment of full diplomatic relations with the Holy See, as a symbolic gesture of reconciliation helping to "heal the wounds opened up in the sixteenth century".

Dr Runcie dealt with a series of questions, some of which reflected the anxieties to which he referred.

In addition to the predictable howls of "No Popery", he said, he had met many fair-minded people with reasonable quibbles about the visit. In particular, he noticed "some anxiety which has been generated by the recent change in the level of diplomatic relations between this country and the Holy See".

The Foreign Office had kept him informed of the progress of that matter, but had not been obliged to seek his agreement for the change, so there was no possibility of the General Synod discussing it in

The anxieties on the matter were an expression of deeper suspicions, that the real differences between the two churches were being "fudged". He added: "But I am convinced that we must not allow ourselves to be-

come imprisoned in antique feuds. It is not the Christian way to be frivolous about questions of truth, but it is certainly not the Christian way to greet a great Christian leader with a mind full of suspicious negativity and hostility. The Pope should be welcomed on a human level."

Dr Runcie said that when he had met the Pope in Africa he had been astonished by the depth and spiritual quality of his listening.

"We all know him to be a person of quick sympathy and deep affection. These qualities are part of his equipment as a very powerful world Christian evangelist. We welcome a great teacher of the Christian faith and life, and a global focus for loyalty, which is potentially a focus of unity."

Anglicans must learn to think of themselves as world citizens, members of a world community which had to cope with its problems together, of perish.

The accent during the Pope's Canterbury visit would be on the "faith that unites us", and he included in that the Free churches.

The General Synod would be invited to Canterbury Cathedral for the service as would all members of the Free Church Federal Council, which numbers more than 100. Free church leaders would have a prominent part to play in the service, and could take part in a "serious and well-prepared" discussion with the Pope, followed by an informal lunch. The Pope would be present from mid-morning to mid-afternoon.

Dr Runcie insisted that the Anglican Communion should be consistent with the principles of its foundation, in particular that it should check that it was proceeding in reliance upon Scripture. Tomark that, the visit was

### College cooperative

## A Renaissance dream in the East End

By Caroline Moorehead

his first cooperative of seven workshops in the East End of London 25 years ago.

His search coincided with a realization by Hackney council that it could not afford to turn the Metropolitan Hospital into the new housing it had been planning. The council asked Mr Murray, by then an old friend, for advice.

This week, final details of the lease, a commercial 25 year lease from the council, are being settled.

The financing of the Metropolitan College of Craftsmen will essentially be that of his past cooperatives. Only the scale is different. The Department of Industry looks likely to act as guarantor for a loan of £70,000 raised from Lloyds Bank; the Greater London Council will probably put up a grant to pay the interest.

By the end of this year two floors should be in operation, the £70,000 having gone towards rewiring, installing a new heating system, and carrying out basic repairs.

A quarter of the 250 workshops have been taken, a performing arts cooperative, which is to take a section for rehearsal rooms, has been formed, and furriers, leather workers, fashion designers, joiners and painters are expressing interest. (The Turkish Islamic Trust is considering taking the old mortuary).



## 20 NATIONS IN TALL SHIP RACE

By Ronald Faux

Tall ships of the world will unite this year in Southampton, the finishing line for the latest in the biennial races between these elegant vessels. The port will be host between August 18 and 25 to more than 80 square riggers, schooners, and lesser vessels from 20 nations.

Announcing details of the event, the organizers said that more than 2,000 trainees would take part in the crews of the various ships.

The tall ships will set out from Falmouth on July 25 on the first race of the series to Lisbon. In Portugal the fleet will meet the transatlantic tall ships that will have raced across from Newport. The combined fleet will then sail for Southampton.

Among the larger vessels expected to take part in the races, sponsored by Glyn Sarc, is the 3,000-ton Russian Fisheries Board barque Kruzenshtern that has competed in the race since 1974. It is hoped that the Polish merchant navy's recently launched square rigger, Dar Mlodziezy, will take part in her first world event.

Other square riggers expected to take part are the Gorch Fock, of the West German Navy, and the Portuguese barque, Sagres.

These aristocrats of the sea will be supported by many schooners, including the Sea Training Association's Sir Winston Churchill, crewed by boys, and the Malcolm Miller, crewed by girls.

## HIGH LIFE QUESTIONS FOR STERN

William Stern, the former property tycoon who went bankrupt in 1978 with debts of £118m, is to be questioned by creditors about his life-style.

Mr Stern's application to be discharged from bankruptcy after offering to pay his creditors £55,000 over three years was described in the Court of Appeal yesterday as "inappropriate". The court ruled that the application should be continued before a High Court Judge for Mr Stern to be cross-examined by creditors.

Lord Justice Templeman said: "The amassing of these colossal debts calls for some less specious explanation than that so far provided." It was unjust that the creditor should not have been allowed to put to the bankrupt allegations of "trash and hazardous speculation".

The court allowed an appeal against the refusal of the London Bankruptcy Court to allow cross-examination.

Mr Stern, aged 43, now a property consultant, had lived in Rolls-Royce existence. In 1980, he earned £22,000 and received a gift of £12,000 from a family trust. His £5,000 mortgage payments on his home in Golders Green, North-west London, said to be worth £1m, were also paid by the trust.

Mr Stern was ordered to pay the costs of both the Court of Appeal and Bankruptcy Court hearings. Leave of appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

# Have you recently found yourself becoming an involuntary non-profit organization?

The earnings reports of many companies are experiencing a widespread outbreak of parentheses. (We mean those depressing bow-legged punctuations that signify operating losses in balance sheets.)

In fact, the problem of diminishing profitability is widespread enough to have acquired an aura of immutability, something like a law of contemporary economics...making it sound almost audacious to suggest the problem is solvable.

Perhaps it's time for a little audacity...and a Data General ECLIPSE® computer.

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inventories carried unprofitably, back orders being filled tardily, cash flow problems...those areas where profits often erode unseen by management.

It isn't surprising then, to find an ECLIPSE computer turning up in so many profit-making organisations, like Express Dairy Foods, North Thames Gas and Guinness Group Sales (Ireland).

In fact, many of the largest and most successful British companies in banking, industry, distribution and services are using Data General computers. Is this a stunning coincidence or a considerable profit opportunity?

Those who still believe in opportunities are invited to write for particulars to: Marketing Communications, Data General Limited, 3rd and 4th Floors, Hounslow House, 724-734 London Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 1PD. Tel: 01-572 7455.

 Data General COMPUTERS

## Rape complaints not believed, group says

From Our Correspondent Manchester

Almost half the women who complain of being raped in Greater Manchester are initially disbelieved by the police. Manchester Rape Crisis Line claims in a report issued yesterday.

Many of the women were called liars, the charity said and some had been insulted and abused and called "slags" or promiscuous. Young women had a particularly difficult time. If accompanied by their parents they were sometimes told that their parents did not believe them, or the parents were told that the girl had admitted to lying.

"Women were sometimes questioned for up to 10 hours", the report said. "In several cases they were so upset by the lengthy, harsh questioning and disbelief that they gave up and withdrew their complaint."

The charity which was set up in March 1980, complains that treatment varied between police stations and with individual officers. Although some women said they had been treated reasonably, the organization is concerned that police officers are often insufficiently informed and ill prepared to deal with women who have been raped.

The charity does not take up individual complaints because it wishes to preserve the anonymity of the women who telephone for help. In 95 cases investigated 12 found that only 47 had complained to the police. Of those, almost half the cases were not taken to court. More than a quarter were not investigated by the police or the women were pressed to drop charges, it claimed.

The charity wants every woman who has been raped to be examined by a woman doctor. Mr James Anderton, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, told the county police committee this month that women doctors were available but admitted that the choice may not normally be given to raped women.

Mr Anderton said in a

statement yesterday there has been no record of any complaint on behalf of a raped woman or girl from the Manchester Rape Crisis Line, and neither had a victim who had made the crisis line objected to the manner in which police had handled their problems.

The Manchester Rape Crisis Centre have never notified me of any dissatisfaction regarding over-police action or procedures for investigating allegations of rape", he said.

"Perhaps they will now be good enough to provide me with more details so that further police inquiries can be made." A copy of the report is being sent to him.

The charity said the police attitude "often leaves much to be desired". It wants better training for police officers. "A lot of training is done in police stations and traditional attitudes are passed on by long serving officers", said a spokesman.

"One of the main myths is that harsh questioning is necessary because there are a lot of false rape allegations. There is no evidence for that belief."

The charity is also unhappy about the legal definition of rape and added:

"We also feel that to exclude rape within marriage is quite unjustified."

The charity alleges that last February Mrs Brown, aged 53, of Lerner Road, Erith, Kent, was remanded on bail by Bexley magistrates yesterday accused of the manslaughter of a woman aged 72, who died from a heart attack after being bitten by two Dobermann Pinschers. She was remanded until May 18.

The charge alleges that last February Mrs Brown, "knowing she was in control of two vicious dogs allowed them to attack the victim, Mrs Dorothy Gladys Dow, who died in hospital two days later."

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### Man died while up a tree

A man who went woodcutting to provide fuel for his sister and her children during the winter was later found dead in a tree.

Graham Griggs, aged 24, of Leewood Place, Swaine, was found on a branch eight feet from the ground in Bourne Woods, Brook Road, Swaine, police constable Bill Riley, the Coroner's officer, said at an inquest in Croydon yesterday. It had been Mr Griggs' third trip to the woods that day.

The wall separating his two heart chambers had ruptured causing instant death, a pathologist, Dr Nigel Harcourt-Webster said. Mr Griggs had 270m of alcohol in every 100m of blood. A verdict of death by natural causes was given.

### Dog owner on death charge

Mrs Olive Brown, aged 53, of Lerner Road, Erith, Kent, was remanded on bail by Bexley magistrates yesterday accused of the manslaughter of a woman aged 72, who died from a heart attack after being bitten by two Dobermann Pinschers. She was remanded until May 18.

The charge alleges that last February Mrs Brown, "knowing she was in control of two vicious dogs allowed them to attack the victim, Mrs Dorothy Gladys Dow, who died in hospital two days later."

**£10,000 robbery**

Five masked men who made a daylight raid on a post office in Bedford Road, Bootle, yesterday, escaped with £10,000 in cash.

### Murder charge

Howard Chamberlain, aged 33, was remanded in custody for a week by magistrates in Nottingham yesterday accused of murdering his wife, Susan, aged 34.

## Crisis in Zimbabwe

# Mugabe youths demand 'Shoot Nkomo'

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Feb 18

Police and army units maintained tight security control over Zimbabwe's main cities today but there was no immediate sign of a backlash against the dismissal of Mr Joshua Nkomo from the Government.

Up to 5,000 demonstrators jogged through the streets of Salisbury this morning chanting and carrying placards calling for Mr Nkomo's dismissal.

Roadblocks monitored traffic around the capital and Mr Nkomo's political stronghold, Bulawayo, which was reported by sources in the city to be peaceful and subdued. Army reinforcements are believed to have been moved into the Bulawayo area.

The Zimbabwe Information Service, the arm of the Ministry of Information, put out a report that in Marandellas, a town east of here, a full-size black coffin had been paraded by demonstrators "to signify the 'death' of Mr Nkomo". The report also said a youth wing of the ruling Zanu (PF) party had called for the veteran leader "to be executed by firing squad".

Investigations are meanwhile continuing into the possibility of charging Mr Nkomo and other senior members of his party with possessing weapons of war, after the discovery of big arms caches on Patriotic Front farms. Mr Mugabe said yesterday that the dismissals were only political action and that criminal proceedings might be brought against those responsible for the caches.

The dismissals effectively scrapped the coalition between the forces of Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe forged at independence in April 1980. It also raised the prospect of disaffection among Mr Nkomo's Ndebele supporters who constitute about 18 per cent of the population, and even of further faction fighting.

## News analysis

## Deep-rooted conflict split two leaders

From Our Correspondent, Salisbury, Feb 18

The dismissal of Mr Joshua Nkomo from Zimbabwe's coalition Government marks a watershed in the country's short history and the end of a long-united alliance between two ill-suited political partners.

Mr Nkomo, the burly father figure of the nationalist movement in Zimbabwe, always looked incongruous alongside Mr Robert Mugabe, the ascetic Marxist who was catapulted to international prominence and unquestioned leadership of the country by the independence election.

Mr Nkomo was the old-style union official who made it to the top of the political pile through magnetism and muscle. Mr Mugabe was the intellectual who emerged at the end of a power struggle, which was crippling his party, and imposed a sense of resolution and discipline which enabled it to win the 1980 election by a landslide.

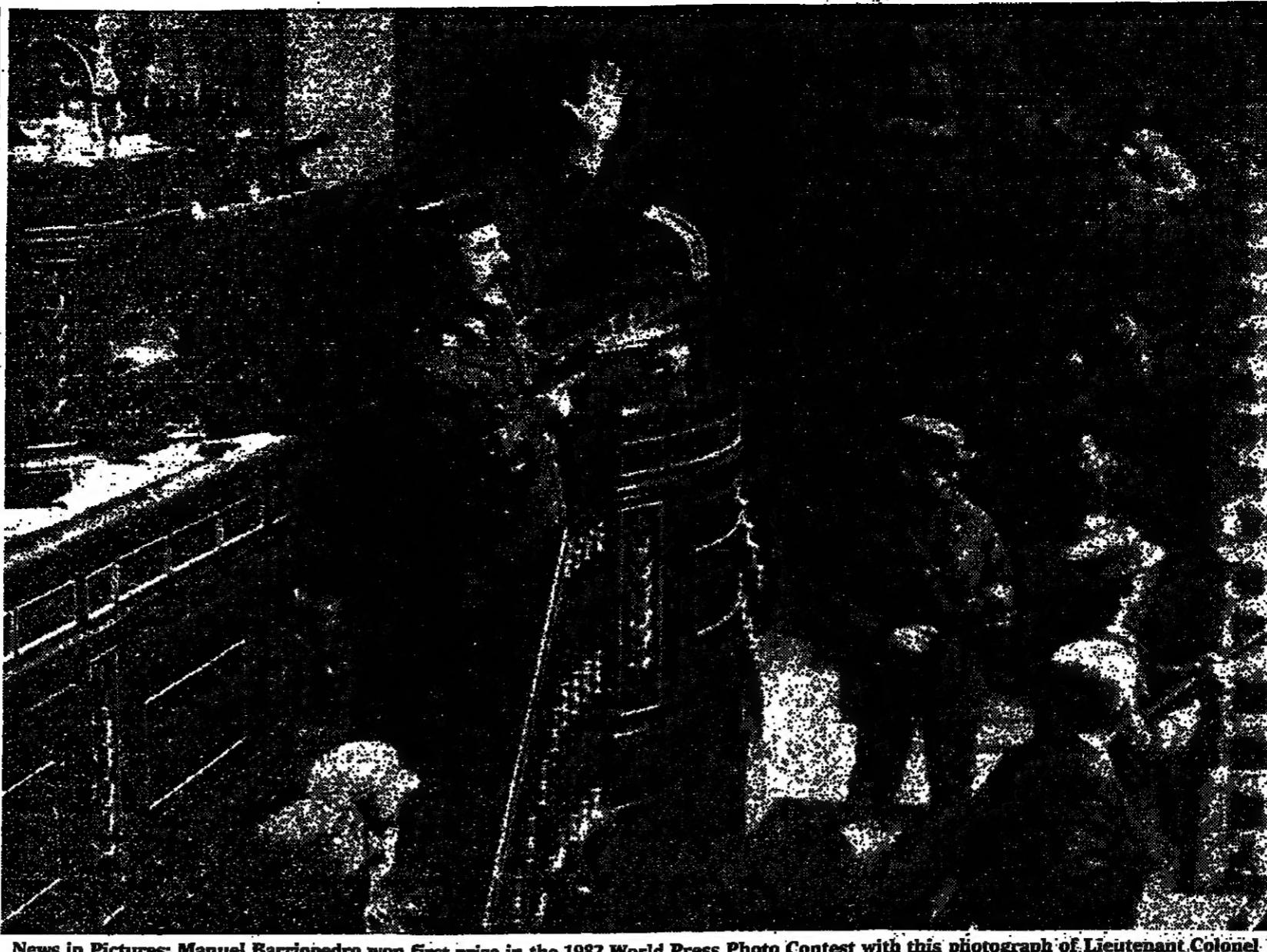
If the time has come to write Mr Nkomo's political epitaph, it may be that of the three black leaders who emerged from the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland he was the only one never to lead his country. President Kaunda of Zambia and President Banda of Malawi were his contemporaries and comrades.

The arms finds which led to his ignominious dismissal this week were clearly an incendiary issue in a country so recently at war but the falling out with Mr Mugabe goes deeper.

The two men have been on opposite political sides for most of their lives. In addition to basic personality differences, the relationship was marked by the nature of their political support — Mr Mugabe drawing allegiance from the Shona-speaking tribes of the north and Mr Nkomo getting his support from their arch-rivals, the Ndebele of the west.

During the long struggle against white rule after Mr Ian Smith's unilateral declaration of independence in November 1965, Mr Mugabe and his Zanu (PF) party believed with some justification that their Zanu guerrillas bore the brunt of the fighting. Mr Nkomo's Zippa forces, although sponsored by the Soviet Union and equipped with the latest in Russian weaponry, were never fully committed by their leaders to the conflict.

Zanu leaders suspected that Mr Nkomo was waiting for their guerrillas and the Rhodesians to wear each other out before stepping in and stealing the limelight. This mutual suspicion also characterized the final round of independence talks which began at Lancaster House in London in the autumn of 1979 hard on the heels of the Commonwealth summit conference at Lusaka.



News in Pictures: Manuel Barriopedro won first prize in the 1982 World Press Photo Contest with this photograph of Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Tejero on the podium of the Spanish Parliament during his abortive coup attempt last February.

## 13 crew missing in Cape collision

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg, Feb 18

Thirteen of the 190 crew members of the President Kruger, a 2,250 ton South African naval frigate which sank after a pre-dawn collision today, 80 nautical miles south of Cape Point, were still missing tonight after an all-day air and sea rescue operation.

Vice-Admiral Ronald Edwards, the Chief of the Navy, described the accident, which occurred in heavy seas and high winds, as "very very sad". He said: "We will continue to search for the missing people until there is no further object in looking for them."

Of the 177 crew who had been rescued, two were reported to have been flown to hospital by helicopter. One had swallowed large amounts of sea water and diesel oil, and the other was suffering from lacerations, exhaustion and shock.

Describing the accident, Vice-Admiral Edwards said the commander of the frigate realized about 15 minutes after the collision that the hull of his ship was so severely damaged that it could no longer stay afloat and he then gave the order to abandon ship.

The doomed frigate collided at 4.22am with a fleet replenishment tanker, the 19,000 ton Tafelberg, and sank just over an hour later.

Both ships had been taking part in night manoeuvres.

The Tafelberg was able to limp home.

The President Kruger was one of three Type 12 frigates bought from Britain under the terms of the Simonstown agreement before it was terminated in the mid-1970s.

The ship was built in the Yarrow's yard on the Clyde and launched in 1960. Originally intended for the Royal Navy, it was later sold to the South Africans to help protect the Cape sea route against submarine attack.

With the ending of the Simonstown agreement, and of an embargo on sales of arms to South Africa, the role of the Navy has been largely reduced to inshore patrolling and harbour protection. The Navy has fewer than 5,000 men and only a score or so of vessels.

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The verdict, and the sentences of those allegedly involved behind the scenes of the coup plot, such as Lieutenant-Generals Jaime Milans del Bosch and Alfonso Armas Comyn, will represent the judgment of 17 brother generals, trying them on the role of the armed forces in contemporary society.

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The trial, especially after sentencing, will test the courage of the younger, more democratic generations in standing up for the constitution through the force of public opinion.

Franco modelled his Army on the victorious side in the civil war which had overthrown the Republic, making

## The coup that failed

## Spanish Army in the dock

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Feb 18

Spain's armed forces have no tradition of obedience to the Government. If the court martial begins tomorrow in Madrid of three Army generals and 29 other officers, all charged with conspiracy to overthrow the Government last February, ends with heavy sentences for the principal figures, a page of Spanish history will have been turned.

The seizure of Parliament in session at gunpoint by Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Tejero in his three-cornered black hat, and accompanied by nearly 300 Civil Guards, was caught live by Spain's state television cameras, and subsequently went round the world.

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Franco modelled his Army on the victorious side in the civil war which had overthrown the Republic, making

it the backbone of his authoritarian system. All the officers on trial for military rebellion, and those on the Supreme Council of Military Justice trying them, spent at least parts of their careers serving him.

Until the coup attempt, the armed forces had accepted somewhat ambiguously the transition to a parliamentary democracy.

The Government of Senor Leopoldo Calvo-Sotelo, who had been in office in the turmoil of the coup aftermath, decided that the bulk of the Army, which had stayed loyal to King Juan Carlos, their Commander-in-Chief, during the night of February 23, should try the *colpistas*. Only if the sentences involved more than three years' imprisonment will disobedience to the civilian government come before Spain's civilian Supreme Court on appeal.

The military prosecutor has demanded 30 years each, the maximum, for two of the generals, and for Colonel Tejero.

There was much debate inside the army in the months leading up to the trial. A minority of hardcore right-wingers had been noisy hailing as martyrs figures like General Milans, the Captain-General of Valencia, who declared martial law on February 23, and put his tanks on the streets. Similarly Colonel Tejero has been turned into cult figures by putting democracy itself on trial.

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the King, expressing the commandments, anguished desire for unity or, more bluntly, to be once again on the winning side.

Brother officers from all the military regions will be present as observers at the trial, and the conduct of General Milans, a skilled and admired commander from a well-connected family, could be decisive. If found guilty, he risks disowning from the Army, and could become a dangerous rallying point.

More explosive, however, will be the expected attempt by the defendants to invoke the King as a supposed ally of the *colpistas*. In his New Year address to the armed forces, King Juan Carlos, whose conduct on the night of the coup was "decisive", described it as a "calamity", extreme right-wing campaigns to involve him in a coup against democracy. He expressed his confidence that the trial would reveal the truth.

Unfortunately, the king lacks in critical times the aristocracy's clear support. Señor Alberto Oliart, the Defence Minister, has sent 75,000 copies of the address to unit commanders, urging them to abide by the trial verdict.

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## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### Greeks call Kyprianou to Athens

Athens. — Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, asked President Kyprianou of Cyprus to come to Athens urgently (Mario Modiano writes). The reason was not disclosed. Mr Kyprianou said he would fly to Athens first thing this morning.

An official press release later disclosed that "information about probable developments in the Cyprus issue, had made necessary an urgent meeting" of the two men. Their talks would continue until tomorrow.

What adds to the mystery is that President Kyprianou spent a week in Athens until January 28, after comprehensive talks here and Mr Papandreou himself is due to visit Cyprus at the end of this month. Originally, the Greek Prime Minister was going to Cyprus at the beginning of this month but his trip was put back, according to press speculation for fear of some Turkish-Cypriot reaction, such as a declaration of an independent state in northern Cyprus.

### Australian doubt on carrier sale

Reports of a further delay over an Australian Government decision to buy the British aircraft carrier HMS Invincible have been greeted with stoicism in Whitehall (Henry St Johnstone writes).

The fresh delay has been caused by scepticism among Australian backbenchers who are querying the need to buy Invincible — offered at what Britain considers a bargain £175m.

### Stiff upper lip for Turks

Ankara. — The Turkish Government has ordered all male state employees to shave daily and not to grow beards or drooping mustaches, and to tell women workers to keep their hair neatly combed and wear stockings, but never short or silk skirts.

The regulations appeared to reflect the military regime's desire not only for discipline but to eradicate political or religious symbols associated with hairstyles or dress.

### Soviet denial on germs

Madrid. — The Soviet Union in a note distributed at the European Security Review Conference, denied it ever used chemical weapons "anywhere under any circumstances or by any means" (Richard Wigg writes). American charges that it is using chemical and bacteriological weapons in central and South-east Asia were dismissed as "a monstrous accusation to beginning to end".

### Oilmen kidnapped in Lebanon

Sidon. — Two oil company executives, one of them an American named Thomas Anderson, deputy director of the petroleum distribution company Medco, were abducted by gunmen while on their way to an oil refinery near this south Lebanese port. They kidnapped with him was Chalib Ali Ahmad. Company officials said the refinery was closed in protest and the workers sent home. The police had no idea who the kidnappers were.

### Cautious optimism in Rome

## Italian terrorist strikes are falling off

From Peter Nichols, Rome, Feb 18

The number of terrorists and suspected terrorists held in Italian prisons is now 1,869. Another 310 are being held.

Some 239 were arrested between December 17 and February 15 when 17 terrorist bases throughout the country were discovered, including the Padua flat in which the Red Brigades were holding Brigadier-General James Dozier, Deputy Chief of Staff at the Verona base. He was the first non-Italian victim of the terrorist.

This extraordinary success at the turn of the year helped to concentrate attention on the real prospects of reducing terrorism which the Government still approaches with caution, despite the statistics giving some grounds for optimism.

Figures compiled by the Ministry of the Interior show that the number of terrorist actions each year has been falling since 1979. In that year there were 2,365 incidents compared to 2,295 in the preceding year. In 1980 the drop was sharper, to 1,264. The 1981 total was 849.

The number of dead and wounded reflect a different picture: in 1978 there were 25 dead and 99 hurt. In 1979 the figures were 22 and 149 respectively but 1980 shows a huge increase — 120 dead and 288 injured most of

them were victims of the prison break of the 1978 Bologna railway station which killed 80 people. Last year's total was 26 dead and 70 injured.

The Bologna bombing is generally regarded as the classic case of terrorism committed by the extreme right which is seen as indiscriminate in its terrorist activities, seeking simply to cause the deepest amount of shock with the greatest amount of death and destruction.

The far left is seen as more likely to make its effect by destroying chosen targets. Of the terrorists and suspected terrorists held in prison at the turn of the year, 41 claimed to be from the extreme right as opposed to the extreme left.

The Red Brigades were however well ahead of any other organization with 61 actions including many of the most important ones, but their commanding position has been weakened by internal differences, less tough repressive and a growing readiness to give evidence instead of claiming simply to be prisoners of war.

The Red Brigades claim the largest share of kidnappings marked by political aims. They started the series in 1973 by seizing Signor Aldo Macchiarini, an executive of the Siemens company in

# Warsaw leaders caught on hop by swoop report

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Feb 13

The Polish authorities were baffled today by the sharp Western response to a report of a routine police swoop that was originally intended to do little more than remind the population of the need for martial law and give the increasingly booted troops a renewed sense of purpose.

As news filtered through of the United States State Department's disapproval and the angry response of Western delegates at the Madrid conference on European security, Polish officials began to call in journalists (a rare occurrence) to find out what the fuss was about.

The problem is the result of a two-day operation at the end of last week code-named "triumph" which coincided with a general show of military and police forces in the capital.

The immediate aim was to remind the people of the strength of the security units in case any protest was made in the two months of martial law.

According to a PAP news agency report, the checking of 51,000 shops, 60,000 vehicles and 3,500 "criminal haunts" (a somewhat vague category), demonstrated "that the observance of martial law regulations is not as good as it might be".

There were 145,000 infractions, 99,000 people had their identity checked and were "cautioned" while another 29,000 were "reminded of their duties". In the latter category was *The Times* correspondent who had forgotten one of the three documents that journalists are supposed to carry with them.

The real Western concern, one Polish official told me, having listened to Radio Free Europe the previous evening, was a figure of 3,500 "detainees" published by PAP.

In fact these people were held for a matter of hours, the majority of them for traffic offences. The International Television News correspondent, Mr John Underwood, for example, was taken to a militia station after driving the wrong way down a one-way street and freed soon afterwards.

Some 4,000 cases have been referred to minor offences courts (such as being insolent to a policeman or having faulty brakes), 614 of which involved a direct infringement of martial law. This figure, officials say, refers largely to curfew violations or the sale of alcohol. They concede, however, that another figure — 252 people suspected of committing crimes — might include some Solidarity activists.

American social issues, 3

## Congress challenge on black voting rights

This article on black voting rights by Peter David is the last of three by Our Washington Staff on social issues facing Congress. The first, on busing, appeared on February 5; the second, on abortion, appeared on February 9.

President Reagan's troubled relationship with black leaders will be subjected to new strains in the coming weeks when Congress begins debate on an issue most Americans believe was settled more than 100 years ago — the right of black people to vote.

A powerful group of conservative Republicans in the Senate has begun a campaign to stop Congress agreeing to renew and strengthen the 1965 Voting Rights Act, a landmark law which forced the reluctant Southern states to allow blacks to exercise their constitutional franchise.

Parts of the Act expire in August and the House of Representatives has already voted 389 to 24 in favour of a Bill renewing the Act and making it easier to prove violations of minority voting rights.

More than 60 senators have also promised to support the Bill but an influential minority, supported by the President, wants to modify it and relax some of the safeguards.

The Senate judiciary committee, which began hearings on the Bill this month, has already been the scene of sharp clashes between liberal senators and Administration officials. Senator Edward Kennedy, who wants the Senate to adopt the House Bill without modifications, accused the Administration of undermining civil rights and said the changes it sought would turn the Act into "an empty shell".

The differences between the two sides centre not on the principle of fair voting but on a technical debate about how the Act should work. The technicalities, however, reflect deep political differences between the Northern and Southern states and philosophical disagreements between liberals and conservatives about the definition of racial discrimination.

Blacks won the right to vote in 1870 under the

## Hopes rise for UN's Afghan initiative

From Zorians Pysarowsky

New York, Feb 18  
The long-balked United Nations initiative on Afghanistan may be heading for a breakthrough.

Intimations of willingness from all the parties involved to cast aside their uncompromising positions and begin serious negotiations have gone far enough to prompt the United Nations to draw plans for the convening of so-called proximity talks with Pakistan and Iran, on the one hand, and the Soviet-backed Kabul Government on the other.

The timing of such talks is still uncertain but discussions about them are viewed with guarded optimism. Nevertheless, the new situation appears to have encouraged Señor Arturo Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, to speak openly about real prospects for a meeting of minds.

In a recent interview he expressed confidence that immediately after a tour of the region by his special representative on Afghanistan, expected to be named on Friday, attention could be focused on the arrangements for the proximity talks.

According to unofficial sources, eight telegraph transmitters have been stolen from a marine enterprise near Gdańsk, with the intention of establishing clandestine contacts with Warsaw.

Although Solidarity leaders still underground — above all Mr Zbigniew Bujak — have urged the opposition to operate in isolated cells, the opposition is evidently building itself a sophisticated infrastructure.

The suspended organizations have not withered away. Thus the suspended students' union, NZS, is understood to be organizing a demonstration in Warsaw.

□ The Polish Government has ordered price cuts for a number of dairy products including cheese and butter, the official PAP news agency reported.

It did not give the new prices for the commodities which earlier nearly quadrupled at the beginning of this month, but said that reductions would mean higher government subsidies. The agency also reported a reduction in the prices of television sets giving as an example the colour set which had been reduced by about 26 per cent to £50.

□ Copenhagen: Denmark has refused to authorize the release of 10,000 balloons — carrying messages from the Paris offices of Solidarity — towards Poland from a Danish ship in the Baltic Sea.

□ New York: American bankers, encouraged by interest payments made so far by Poland, may allow the Poles to re-schedule their 1981 commercial bank debt soon, banking sources said.

Before we got together with British Telecom, four hours might elapse between the development of serious symptoms and a patient's admission to hospital.

Now, thanks to the national radio

paging system, a doctor can be alerted to an emergency by a 'bleep' carried about his person, enabling him to save vital minutes in the treatment of serious illness.

So it was with Thomas. His GP was at his side within an hour, and a potentially fatal situation defused.

One day, he'll know enough words to thank his lucky stars.

Meanwhile, it's hard to resist raising



Papal embrace: A child greeting the Pope on his arrival in Malabo.

## Pope thanks his persecuted faithful

From Godfrey Morrison, Libreville, Gabon, Feb 18

The Pope flew to Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, today to thank the faithful in one of Africa's most Catholic countries for remaining steadfast in the face of horrific persecution and to offer the present Government his church's cooperation.

Private United Nations officials are saying that the immediate task of the special representative will be to work out an agenda which will deal with two issues critical for an overall settlement — complete withdrawal of Soviet occupying troops, and a guarantee of Afghanistan's sovereignty.

missionaries were expelled. Thousands of people were sent into forced labour in the cocoa plantations and 50,000 foreigners, most of them Nigerians, were deported.

Macias Nguema was overthrown in 1979 by his nephew, Col. Teodoro Obiang Nguema, who now heads a military Government that is trying to rebuild the country's ravaged economy.

On his arrival in Malabo, the Pope told him: "I am sure that the moral reserves of the Guinean people will bring about a climate of mutual collaboration that will implant the conditions of a proper morality, both public

and private, and lead to a real spiritual and material progress."

A cheering crowd of 10,000 people greeted the Pope on his arrival in Equatorial Guinea, the last country of his four-nation African tour.

The Pope's words of encouragement will undoubtedly come as a great boost for the military Government whose efforts to re-establish normality in this small country of only about 350,000 people — 90 per cent of whom are Catholics — has not been helped by the world.

Only Idi Amin of Uganda rivalled Macias Nguema in 1972

## Bacteria may help to shrink computers

From Christopher Thomas

New York, Feb 18  
The speed of technological advance in the United States is threatening to make the silicon chip start showing its age. Scientists are now talking about growing computer components in a test tube.

Already a few laboratories are experimenting with the idea of combining electronics and genetic engineering to produce computer parts from bacteria.

The result would be a computer much smaller and much more powerful than anything in existence today. Research workers are predicting a device the size of a matchbox with the capacity of a mainframe computer, although the hypothesis is probably at least 20 years from reality.

The smallest dimension at present is about one micron, a millionth of a metre.

Advocates of the chemical approach believe that molecular elements will form the breakthrough to a smaller computer. Mr Forrest Carter, head of molecular electronics at the naval research laboratory in Washington, said that hundreds of molecular elements could fit a line one micron in length.

The Pope made a particular point of expressing confidence in Bishop Rafael Mariano who was exiled by Macias Nguema in 1972.

an eyebrow at those who depict the microchip as the harbinger of a new Dark Age, in which honest flesh and blood will be surplus to requirements.

For there's nothing inherently sinister about a silicon chip. It is, after all, merely a slave. It does what it's told.

We tell ours, among other things, to train pilots in our flight simulators; to entertain us through our television and recorded music systems; and to take the drudgery out of office work through our advanced, desktop Teleputer terminals.

In fact, Thomas will bump into us in all sorts of unexpected places as he grows up.

And we believe that, thanks to us, his world will be rather better than the one he almost left, last September.

**REDFISSION**

## A MICROCHIP GAVE THIS MAN A FUTURE.



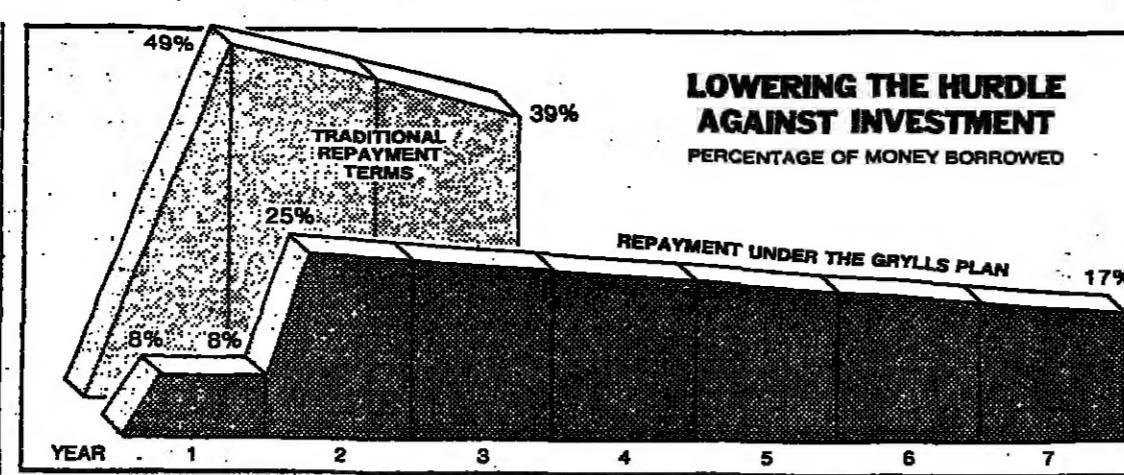
WITH A TURNOVER OF £120M, REDFUSION IS A LEADING NAME IN BRITISH ELECTRONICS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US, PLEASE FOR A BROCHURE TO: GROUP PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, CAVENDISH HOUSE, 100 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON W1.



George Brock reports on the Budget measure that could bring £7,000m investment and 300,000 new jobs

## One small move for Geoffrey Howe, a giant opportunity for industry

As Britain's industrial battalions lobby the Chancellor for costly economic expansion in next month's Budget, a group of Conservative businessmen - led by MP Michael Grylls - has put together a cheap tax change that could play a major part in revitalizing our manufacturing investment.



### 1 Mr Honks beats the hurdle factor

Imagine yourself to be the managing director of a medium-sized firm called Honks Ltd: at your ageing factory, 50 people make car booters.

You exist on capital of £1m, half of it raised by overdraft, the rest by loans made for fixed periods. It is obvious to you that to stay ahead in the global booter market Honks has to modernize.

A year ago, you came close to spending £200,000 on new booter-making equipment, but gave up when you found how much borrowing the funds would cost. You are surviving the recession, but at a price: a failure to equip for the future: since last year Taiwanese booters have penetrated the market even further and now the modernization plan is back on your desk.

The figures are still alarming. The bank is ready to lend the

£200,000 at 16 per cent over three years. To meet both the interest and pay back the capital will cost Honks about £90,000 a year for those three years. The new machines should make the production line roughly twice as productive, but the world booter market is too uncertain to guarantee enough cash coming in. Would it not be better to wait until the promised recovery materializes?

Now suppose a different possibility arises? New arrangements between the banks, the Government and industry say that if a loan is made for longer than five years, the payback rate is halved. Companies paying interest on loans are now entitled to claim the cost of that interest as an allowance against corporation tax when they are eventually taxed on any profits. The new plan will give certain firms those allowances straight

away, whether or not they are to pay tax at year end.

If they do eventually make a profit, they will be taxed without the allowances. Since most corporation tax is paid at 52 per cent, instant allowances will halve the cost of loan repayment. Longer-term loans to industry will become more like house mortgages for which tax relief arrives immediately.

You do the sums again. A seven-year loan with no capital being repaid until the second year would mean an average annual cost of £42,000. What some businesses call the "hurdle rate" is now much easier: Honks does not have to jump so high so fast. That spare cash should mean that you can take on some more men and boost the output of booters, which because of the new machinery, will be better-priced against the Taiwanese.



### 2 The Grylls team v. the rest

The above story of Honks Ltd is a simplified fantasy. But is an example of what a small but energetic group of Conservative businessmen is trying to insert into Sir Geoffrey Howe's Budget speech on March 9. A working party set up by Mr Michael Grylls MP, chairman of the party's backbench industry committee, set out to look for an industrial pick-me-up that would violate as few of the Government's economic rules as possible. They have come up with an ingenious reflational strategy. If it worked, it might be one of the few ways in which this Government could stimulate the economy promptly enough to improve its bleak election chances.

Mr George Edwards, the banking economist and member of the Grylls working party, estimates that £7,000m of new and existing loans might be taken into the scheme in the first year, generating a possible 300,000 jobs. On the ground that each 100,000 new jobs cut between £300m and £600m off the public sector borrowing requirement, Mr Edwards argues that not only will the scheme not lose the Government any tax, but it will help the economy. If the treasury did its sums properly, it would see that, he said.

Edwards has argued for some time that the British financial system is biased against longer-term lending to industry. With

interest rates high, short-term loans create a "liquidity trap" which does not endanger firms in West Germany and Japan where loans are made for longer stretches. The working party was also the author of the loan guarantee scheme for small firms which slipped into the Budget last year, proving that it was possible for voices from outside the regular chorus of pre-Budget advice to be heard by the Chancellor. They have been assiduously briefing other individual Cabinet Ministers on their latest brainchild.

In its first version, the study group's report simply suggested that the Government should grin and bear the "loss" of the tax relief paid earlier than usual. The loss would be offset by a stimulated economy. The group began hawking the idea around Government departments in the autumn and took a valuable tip from David Young, then political adviser to Patrick Jenkins, the Industrial Secretary, and now the chairman of the Manpower Services Commission.

Young suggested that the banks be persuaded to carry the first costs and to claim it back only when they paid their own tax. The political leverage was clearly available: banks sensible about their massive profits might be easier to persuade than a reluctant Treasury and they could charge slightly higher

interest rates to compensate. The scheme could then be presented as no threat to Government revenue.

But the banks are still ambivalent. Robin Leigh-Pemberton, chairman of National Westminster, was reported to have told Conservative backbenchers that he favoured the idea. He now claims that he was misquoted and Ian Morrison of the representative Committee of London Clearing Banks said this week that his remarks had been confined to small and new businesses. It was a personal opinion, said Morrison.

Morrison said that the banks are reserving their position until they see the latest proposal in full, but want to know for certain that they would be able to change extra on the loans to cover the cost of carrying the tax relief, what criteria for lending under the scheme will be and how it will be policed against abuse. "There isn't," said Morrison, "massive anecdotal evidence showing that industrialists are saying 'things would be OK if there were some temporary relief even if the tax bill is higher in the end.'

Treasury officials share some of the doubts about approval mechanisms and policing, but their principal doubt is over whether the Government should encourage the possibility of the monetary expansion that a successful scheme would imply.

The scheme may rate a non-committal mention in Sir Geoffrey's speech. Its chances of anything more substantial seem remote since little detailed work has been done inside the Treasury and what work has been done has left the officials with reservations.

The Grylls working party says that there will be no watertight way to prevent "round-tripping" (surplus money being sent into the money markets and back again with a profit) but that the banks seem confident of being able to control abuses. The Grylls group would like policing to be done as spot checks by approved accountants to avoid the need for large numbers of civil servants. It has not so far suggested any detailed criteria for distinguishing between approved industries and "candyfloss": manufacturing would be approved, property speculations would definitely not and hotels might be on the borderline.

Confronted by the money supply argument, the working party tend the direct line adopted by Sir John King, their chairman, of the engineering firm Babcock and Wilcox, when it presented the idea to the Treasury last November. "Chancellor," said Sir John, addressing a crowded room containing two Ministers, officials from the Treasury, Department of Industry and the Inland Revenue, "Industry is bleeding".

The banks have woken up slowly to the idea of making longer money available for projects which will not pay immediately. The loan, Mr Probert says, should match the schedule.



**CANNING**  
The W. CANNING GROUP

### 3 The view from the boardroom

David Probert is the kind of Chief Executive Mrs Thatcher would like: too busy pushing his company upward and outward to moan about the recession. Mr Probert has also been spending £2m on producing new ideas and making nearly half of his workforce of 2,300 redundant to keep the company alive. The Canning group, started nearly 200 years ago, now makes specialized chemicals, plating equipment, valve fluids and refined precious metals. It sells technology to IBM and Mitsubishi. "And the banks," says Mr Probert, "have been a hindrance".

Canning's products take three or four years to develop, test and market; not every one works out as intended. Investment has become harder to finance. Mr Probert has his eye on the tiny road maps of gold which lace across printed electrical circuits. He would be well-placed to sell gold potassium cyanide, one of the elements which goes into the alloy which makes the "roads".

The necessary laboratory would cost £300,000 and scientists' salaries for two or three years would eat up another £150,000. Raising the money is no problem; the banks, he says, are always keen to lend. But Mr Probert requires each of his companies to make 25 per cent profit on its operations. A subsidiary which has a new product not making money or just costing money while it is being tested needs to balance that with something which makes a lot more than 25 per cent. Gold potassium cyanide will cost too much to develop; so the project is stalled.

Some time in 1983, or possibly 1984, Canning's new phosphating processes and machinery will start to make a profit for the firm. It will have taken seven years and £500,000 to bring off a competitively priced piece of equipment which seals bicycle frames against corrosion, using less energy than other processes.

Mr Probert would not embark on such a long haul today. "Nowadays when you're raising money", he says, "you want to be able to look at it and say: 'It's going to do a quick pay-off'."

The banks have woken up slowly to the idea of making longer money available for projects which will not pay immediately. The loan, Mr Probert says, should match the schedule.

**BILL FODEN** and **Douglas Pobjoy**, chief executive and chairman respectively of Foden's of Cheshire, at the time of its takeover, calculate that a Grylls scheme would have provided an extra £5m over the last seven years of their difficulties. The sum recurs in their post-mortem arithmetic: during Foden's final cash-flow crisis it was the amount they asked the Government to lend while they negotiated a takeover by Renault, and it was the amount the Government eventually paid out in redundancy to Foden's employees.

When the lorry-makers, which once employed 3,000 went into the hands of the receiver 18 months ago, it was snapped up by the Seattle-based PACCAR group. Staff now numbers 700.

Many factors may have contributed to the collapse. The figures are less important than the type of lending it was offered.

Foden's was 125 years old and had a remarkably peaceful industrial record.

When the end came, Foden's had an overdraft facility of £7m and a £5m seven-year loan. The seven-year loan was the odd loan out: the bulk of its finance had been overdrafts converted into a year.

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**MARIO BELL**, finance director of Turnball & Newall, watches his company's attempts to modernize textile machinery in a Rochdale plant which employs 3,000 people and which is fighting fierce overseas competition. In T & N terms, the machines, at £500,000 each, are not costly, and they are 10 times more productive than the present ones. But the cash is not available to install them quickly.

In a group as large as T & N, which controls plastics, construction, chemical and mining firms, any Grylls scheme would affect the rate of new investment.

T & N spends about £10m a year on capital projects in Britain and does not find that its supply of money is short, but that interest rates endanger cash flow.

If it could use Grylls's advantages on only half that sum it would immediately have an additional margin of £400,000 a year.

Mr Bell said: "The Grylls scheme would obviously have an immediate effect. Cash flow would improve and boards of directors are more likely to go ahead with projects at a more economic rate."

What Mr Bell calls the "hurdle rates" of payments make constructive investment tougher all the time. "Nowadays you're looking for a two or two-and-a-half year payback," he said. "Longer-term money is available but at floating interest rates and that makes it difficult to look further out. You want modernizing, cost-saving, energy-saving schemes which can make 40 per cent. There aren't many of those."

"If such a scheme starts, I hope it would be used not just for brand new 'green field' sites, but for modernization of existing plant. It is essential that we keep our machinery modern and have the up-to-date technology used by competitors."

T & N recently spent £20m expanding a PVC plant in County Durham; it had just about broken even in a slumped European market. The corporation tax allowances available after such a project and on the interest paid on its finance are so far unused.

Mr Bell's enthusiasm for the Grylls scheme is fired by the attractions of being able to use allowances which are unusable in present conditions.

### Court of Appeal

### Law Report February 19 1982

### Divisional Court

### No rates before property is in full use

British Telecommunications v Kennet District Council

Before Lord Justice Waller, Lord Justice Kerr and Sir George Baker

Judgment delivered February 18

When a new telephone exchange was being built and equipped British Telecommunications were not ratable occupiers while the equipment was completed.

The Court of Appeal so held in *Arbuckle Smith & Co Ltd v Kennet District Council* (1980, AC 813), the House of Lords had to consider whether when a company purchased a warehouse for use as a bonded warehouse it was in ratable occupation while necessary alterations were being carried out and it held that the intention of carrying on a business when they were completed did not constitute ratable occupation.

Lord Justice Kerr distinguished that the rating authority had derived a benefit from their occupation because they were able to have their plant installed so that in due course they could work it.

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Four voices from the West: in the final article James Callaghan warns of threats to the Nato from both sides of the Atlantic

## We must heal the divided alliance



All of us return a ringing "no" to the question "Will the alliance break apart?" We point to previous periods in its life when crises were surmounted - none more serious than when General de Gaulle withdrew from Nato and expelled all Nato installations and personnel from France. My own party, which has gone prematurely anti-nuclear, recently threw out by an overwhelming majority a conference proposal that Britain should withdraw from Nato. There is no prospect of the alliance breaking up. The real worry is that it becomes so divided that it is incapable of taking concerted action.

Poland, Afghanistan, the Middle East, the Siberian gas pipeline, even the Olympic Games, all found the Alliance at odds. Of course, we paper over the cracks, but our differences are as obvious to the Soviet Union as they are to us. It is true that members of the alliance have always had different perspectives and we must accept that there will never be mechanical uniformity. But while I do not wish to exaggerate the alliance's difficulties, I fear we have recently lost sight of a common political purpose, and, without that, military strategy exists in a vacuum.

There are fundamental contradictions in American fiscal, monetary and taxation policy which are weakening the economies of the West, and, unless quickly changed, will lead to even higher unemployment, to growing protectionism, and to exchange controls. Quite apart from these serious errors the alliance no longer has the thrust that as recently as 1974 was set out in the Declaration on Atlantic Relations, approved by all the member states of the North Atlantic Council. Let me remind you:

In Europe their objective continues to be the pur-

suit of understanding and cooperation with every European country". We had the Eastern bloc in mind.

Or again: "It is in the interests of all that every country benefit from technical and economic progress in an open and equitable world system". That covers the gas pipeline from Siberia to Germany.

Once more: "(the alliance's) common aims require the maintenance of close consultation, cooperation and mutual trust".

Hardly consistent with mutterings across the Atlantic that it is a combination of timidity and greed that characterizes Europe's present attitude towards the Soviet Union.

The reality is that the present American administration no longer subscribes to those parts of the 1974 Declaration, although it continues to be fully convinced that the North Atlantic Treaty is the basis for our common security. They would argue that the 1974 Declaration is now superseded by the growth of the Soviet Union and that her actions in Afghanistan, Africa and elsewhere prove that it is an expansionist power that must be checked.

Europeans go along with part of this analysis, but they do not accept the conclusions that are drawn. For example, as long as Germany is divided she will have an important national interest in maintaining relations with the Eastern bloc. Again, unrest and stability in the Third World and the anti-Western attitude of some of these countries cannot merely be ascribed to the hand of Russia. There is growing up a basic difference between the way in which America and Europe view the world, and until our broad perceptions come together again, the alliance

will be ineffective.

Take Poland. The Russians complain that what happens there is none of our business, but of course it is, especially since the signing of the Helsinki agreements and Chancellor Schmidt, for one, has stated Germany's position. Their policy is to assist a gradual evolution of Polish institutions towards a plural society, and Germany will take such steps in matters of trade, finance, food supplies, as will assist that end. Helmut Schmidt speaks for many of us in this. I wish I were equally clear about the policy of the United States.

It seems to me that Zbigniew Brzezinski was saying much the same in his article opening this series. Is this also President Reagan's view? He must know by now that there is an uncertainty about America's policy (and not only in this area), which makes it difficult even for America's friends to understand the present strategy. The rhetoric used by some in the United States could lead the Russians to conclude that their underlying hope is for a sudden and complete change in Poland's political order.

Such a happening is not only improbable, it would destabilize Europe, and we should be very sceptical of those who believe it would bring about a liberal democratic society. One thing is certain: the Russians will never allow Poland to be used as a pathway for attack. We have no reason to quarrel with that and the West's policy should be shaped accordingly.

We would do the people of eastern Europe a disservice if we re-ignited the Cold War. For I have no doubt that the negotiations of the Helsinki agreements generated a gradual reforming pressure by bringing human rights in Eastern Europe within the arena of international debate. There is no way to end

the East-West conflict, but we must aim to keep it under control, recognizing that the ideological battle will not cease. War in Europe would be utterly disastrous. Any conflict on the European mainland would inevitably lead to uncontrollable escalation. Tidy theories of controlled escalation would disappear at once in the blind chaos of battlefields contaminated by nuclear and chemical fall-out, when the existence of a continent is at stake.

War must be prevented. Disarmament and arms control must be part of the alliance security policy, not an alternative to it. A military balance is a precondition for security in Europe and for the relaxation of tension. We have had disarmament talks, but no disarmament. They will continue to fail unless America accepts that military superiority is a chimera. What is needed is a comprehensive balance at the lowest possible level of armaments and the reversal of present policies in both East and West to stock up armaments, both in quantity and quality.

President Reagan's campaign policy, prior to his election, of increasing defence spending, undoubtedly had the support of many Americans. But the time has come for the administration to give its own people in explaining that the truths of world politics are much more complex than an attempt to secure an unattainable military

superiority. Peace can be kept through military balance and dialogue, but not through military superiority.

It is also essential that the American people understand that whatever the truth about the expansionist aims of the Soviet Union, that country does not lie at the root of every one of the world'sills.

Poverty, injustice and oppression in the Third World, are themselves threats to the security and interests of the world as a whole.

The United States has an historical role to play by giving a lead in this understanding.

The Europeans have a

better understanding of the complexities of the present world difficulties than the United States. I am sorry about our differences, but they in no way weaken our fidelity to the alliance. In present circumstances we must agree to differ with the United States but we must continue to discuss our differences with them and persuade them of the need to take a different view. For without the positive agreement of the United States, the alliance cannot give a clear lead in the world.

I am optimistic that the well-known capacity of the American people to learn from practical experience and adapt to reality will enable the alliance to recover its vision and its dynamism.

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James Callaghan was Labour

Prime Minister from 1976 to

1979.

should know that 15 other large Russian cities would be devastated by the British bombing response. If it would, then the missile-purchasing picture looks very different, for another option is immediately revived.

The new British Chevaline warheads are good for the more limited purpose outlined above until well into the next century, and though we should have to renew their rocket-motors in the late 1990s and would have to plan immediately for the building of new submarines to carry them when our present Polaris submarines are obsolete in about 1993, there is no intrinsic reason why they could not be made to last at a far lower cost than Trident.

The MOD's preference is for the D5, which it will back with two main arguments. One boils down to the proposition that unless we buy the C4s second-hand as the Americans discard them (not considered very attractive from the point of view either of efficiency or national pride) they are not likely to turn out much less expensive than their successors in the long run. And though they admittedly give us more range and power than we strictly need, they are better value for money.

Should we reject these very costly submarine-launched rockets in favour of cheaper sea-launched Cruise missiles? Or should we simply fade out of the nuclear weapons business in the mid-1990s, when our present submarines become obsolete?

These options have been pretty widely canvassed in the press, in academic literature, and in Parliament, but it has been an oddly disjointed discussion. The argument has raged first within the different Establishment, with the civilian bureaucrats on the one hand lined up in favour of buying the best deterrent of that's going, against the deep misgivings of the chiefs of the conventional services, who fear the effect of the huge expenditure on their own budgets.

The public, on the other hand, has let the technicalities slip by and is basically split between those who believe that we should abandon nuclear weapons upon moral grounds and those who feel generally safer and stronger for having some kind of deterrent.

The Cabinet, being laymen, but also for the most part "convinced" deterrent men, have some difficulty in making sense of all this. The final option — that of getting out of nuclear weapons altogether — will, of course, get short shrift. The French Minister, Mr. Le Gendre, is adamantly opposed to it. Mr. John Nott, the Defence Secretary, would probably resign before adopting it, and the Conservative Party in the country would find it very hard to stomach.

The sea-launched Cruise option has also virtually been eliminated by reason of its prospective vulnerability to new Russian ground-to-air defensive systems. The choice, as presented by the Ministry of Defence, will therefore be between the two versions of Trident — the C4, which originally intended to buy, but which the Americans will cease to manufacture in the mid-80s; and the more powerful and expensive

D5 which is now to be the main American submarine-launched strategic weapon until well into the twenty-first century. It will be the climax of a long and abstruse debate. Should we purchase (and build submarines to carry) the very powerful new American Trident missiles as successors to the aging Polaris weapons, if so in a more or less advanced version?

The second argument, which spikes the Treasury's guns, is that the immediate down-payments on the D5s are smaller than on the C4s and the big outlay will not come until after the election. This basis it looks more and more like a walkover for Mr. Nott.

The result will probably appear the most attractive, but the Cabinet has two strong reasons for finding it objectionable, even if we start from the point of view that it is essential for Britain to maintain its own deterrent.

The Labour Party is committed to jettisoning the deterrent, but a more modest commitment might have a better chance of surviving a coalition with a Liberal/SDP alliance.

A more substantial (and I believe) equally powerful argument against the Trident D5 starts from the question: "What kind of deterrent does Britain actually need?" We do not ask this question often enough; and unless the Cabinet is prepared to ask it again the MOD case will be carried by default. The MOD has always assumed (and its present case is based on the assumption) is that what is wanted from our own strategic nuclear weapons is the assured second-strike ability to destroy the Soviet Government and command system (that is, to penetrate the defences surrounding Moscow and one or two of the largest Soviet cities).

The V-bombers, the Polaris, and most recently the improved Polaris (Chevaline) systems in our possession have each in their turn been capable of fulfilling this function. Unless the Russians start investing huge sums in anti-ballistic missile defences, Trident would prolong its to perhaps 2020.

But do we need to penetrate the Moscow defences? Would it not be a sufficient deterrent to the Russians to destroy British cities? (which is really the only serious function of the British long-range nuclear weapons anyhow?) that they should not have to return to port so often.

This is in itself, obviously, an expensive programme; but it need not be as expensive by quite such a large margin as what is now envisaged, and the "why-not-while-we're-about-it" arguments need far more critical examination than they normally receive.

If one could be sure, of course, that the money saved on Trident would be spent on lowering the nuclear threshold in Europe by expending on the improvement of our conventional forces there, the argument would be stronger still. In fact, of course, if we save on Trident the money is likely to find its way into domestic purposes or possibly into the purchase of other defence equipment far less important. The machinations of the Treasury and the inter-service rivalries which still abound in the Ministry of Defence will see to that. But that is hardly a consideration that the Cabinet can admit to. They had better, like the French, decide what is required for a limited role and buy as thrifitily as they can.

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## Max Harris, aged 9 is moving into gold

by Peter Watson

It has been a good winter for Gregory Richards of Chicago. Despite the general economic climate, his Lockheed shares have performed so well that he has just begun investing in silver. Nothing so unusual in that, you may think. But Greg Richards is aged 11, and the hundreds of dollars he has made on the Stock Exchange stem from the fact that he has stopped buying sweets and model tanks with his pocket money and now uses his cash in more adult ways.

What is more, as his mother Susan is the first to admit, Greg is not a particularly brilliant 11-year-old either. Plenty of other American children are now doing the same thing. A poll just completed by Rand Youth Surveys of New York finds that no fewer than 12 percent of American children

between the ages of eight and 19 now own stocks and shares.

The trend is growing so fast that two schools in Manhattan have begun to offer courses for 12 and 13-year-olds which introduce them to the stock market. In one school, where the head requested to remain anonymous to avoid the attentions of would-be kidnappers, each of the 12 and 13-year-olds was given a optional \$500,000 loan. September. A week this week the best child in the class has improved his "portfolio" to \$650,000 and the worst has dropped to under \$400,000. Whoever has the most money at the end of the academic year in June wins a free trip to the stock market and lunch with top brokers.

In the second school, in Chinatown, the pupils actually use their own pocket money but this is pooled. Their most hair-raising incident to date was when they came in one morning, checked the Wall Street Journal and found that their shares in Kellogg had very nearly halved overnight. Not until the teacher arrived was it pointed out that stock had been split and they had actually made money.

Max Harris, from New York, who is pushing nine, has moved into gold. Not much, it is true, but enough for him to follow the price fluctuations each day with more than passing interest. Michael Schechter, 17, of Colorado, is in real estate and Tammy Samp, 14, in Washington, has been trying her hand, so far unsuccessfully, on the Commodities market (coffee, unfortunately).

Stories like these were just anecdotes until Lester Rand published his survey showing that one in eight children is now sophisticated enough to play the stock market, a percentage which has more than doubled in the last five years.

Several reasons are given for this change in use of pocket money. Uninflation. Children now aged eight to 12, say the psychologists, are the first generation to have grown up entirely at a time when inflation has been in or near double figures and their pocket money has been hit the same as everything else. A more convincing explanation, perhaps, is the one that blames divorce.

Studies show that in America divorced parents tend to lavish money on their children out of guilt for the separation. Large numbers of

children, therefore, now have fewer parents around the home but far more money.

Then there is Penpawp, a magazine started a year ago by the United States consumer union. Amongst its 8 to 12-year-olds, this began with articles telling children how to shop around for better quality, more educational toys, and more nutritious orange juice. But, following the enormous response to an issue it ran on banking facilities for children, it has now started offering modest advice on investment rates, which banks encourage the smaller saver and so on.

Through this, several children who in one way or another have amassed \$1,000 have found that they can then open a money market fund account, paying 15 per

cent, and in some cases have then gone on to play with foreign currencies.

Not all the children are

cocky whiz kids. But Those B., aged 10, from Los Angeles, is. When asked what he was going to do with all the money he has made, he replied: "Save it till I'm a millionaire — then buy a TV set." It almost makes you wish he turns out to be right.

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Across the Atlantic, in London was immediate and pained.

Now Telecom says more economic premises have been found, nearer the Houses of Parliament, and the relay office will be open seven days a week (though not as formerly, all night as well).

Alastair PHS has unwittingly brought the Labour Party into conflict with that other great comedy house, Walt Disney Productions. My note on Wednesday about MPs' dispute that Labour was using Donald Duck as Tory spokesman in a political education programme brought instant action from Keith Bales, vice-president and copyright director for Disney.

"Our is not Donald Duck," Labour spokesmen protested. "He does not wear a blue sailor suit. He is called Scrooge and he speaks in a Scottish accent. Donald's accent is American."

This hasty defence is not likely to suffice. Bales adds, in a postscript: "It must be understood that any use of characters must not look like, or be intended to, our copyright because we would bring immediate passing off action."

Divine inspiration

Chris Wright, managing director of a computer software firm, stumbled on a high-technology idea while drowsing for water. He met some Wiltshire dairy farmers who wanted to computerize their administration, and the system he devised to cut down doorstep milk bills is now attracting inquiries from as far away as Pakistan.

Son of Diary Quiz

By popular demand, here are a few cryptic questions about the week's events for addicts who have been missing the Diary Quiz. Answers will be in Monday's column.

1. Who acted with calculated

invisibility?

2. What pedestrian fact links

Luton, Plymouth and Woolwich?

3. On what subject are Conservative MPs plumping the depths?

4. Whose performance was just off form?

PHS



## The urgent case for a money-saving missile

David Watt

Within the next week the Cabinet is expected to make its decision on whether to prolong Britain's possession of nuclear weapons into the twenty-first century. It will be the climax of a long and abstruse debate. Should we purchase (and build submarines to carry) the very powerful new American Trident missiles as successors to the aging Polaris weapons, if so in a more or less advanced version?

Should we reject these very costly submarine-launched rockets in favour of cheaper sea-launched Cruise missiles? Or should we simply fade out of the nuclear weapons business in the mid-1990s, when our present submarines become obsolete?

Should we, the Americans discard them (not considered very attractive from the point of view either of efficiency or national pride) they are not likely to turn out much less expensive than their successors in the long run. And though they admittedly give us more range and power than we strictly need, they are better value for money.

The second argument, which spikes the Treasury's guns, is that the immediate down-payments on the D5s are smaller than on the C4s and the big outlay will not come until after the election. This basis it looks more and more like a walkover for Mr. Nott.

The result will probably appear the most attractive, but the Cabinet has two strong reasons for finding it objectionable, even if we start from the point of view that it is essential for Britain to maintain its own deterrent.

The Labour Party is committed to jettisoning the deterrent, but a more modest commitment might have a better chance of surviving a coalition with a Liberal/SDP alliance.

Overturned by an incoming government of a different complexion in 1984. The Labour Party is committed to jettisoning the deterrent anyway, but a more modest commitment might have a better chance of surviving a coalition with a Liberal/SDP alliance.

As to the second argument, it is really the expression of all the deterrent ministries to have the equipment that represents the latest state of the art. When we read front-page stories in defence journals to do with the latest advances in anti-submarine warfare is that they should be quieter, that they should have better sonar, that they should not have to return to port so often.



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## SIR PETER HIT THE BUFFERS

The railways board has chosen to tread the path of humiliation mapped out for it by Lord McCarthy, not that he left it with much choice when he decided to make it the victim of last August's ACAS-sponsored fudge. The latest three-cornered bout with ACAS has not produced any clear commitment by Aslef to the principle of flexible rostering as that is understood by the board. The most it produced was an assurance that the union does not rule out in advance negotiation under that head either. Not much of a fig leaf there either.

There is however another garment in which the board can clothe its nakedness as it enters the negotiating chamber. When last summer it was presented by the Railway Staff National Tribunal with a wages award, appreciably higher than any it had the money for, the board declared that if the topping of 3 per cent was to be paid it would have to be made self-financ-

ing. The method of financing it which the board quite rightly went for was that of making working practices on the railways less cripplingly inefficient. It brought the NUR and the salaried staffs along with it and agreed useful measures of labour productivity with them, including flexible rostering where it applied.

But though the best, more efficient working practice is not the only method by which money can be found to pay the extra wages, it can be found by employing fewer train drivers. If the final stage of these drawn-out proceedings, to be concluded by mid-March, does not produce a negotiated agreement on the rostering of footplatemen, or if Lord McCarthy (for it will be he) hands down an arbitration award that fails to yield sufficient productivity to cover the cost of the extra wages the board is now to be obliged to pay, or if Aslef refuses to accept the award that is handed down the railways board should immediately set about shedding labour to the precise extent that is needed to match the cost of the three per cent.

So that no one shall be left in any doubt about its intention, the board should make known before the final round of negotiations begins that that is what it means to do

and spell out the implication in the number of jobs to be shed. The Government too should approve that intention and indicate that the board's borrowing limits will be regulated accordingly. The job losses should be made to fall on that branch of the railway service that has withheld its cooperation, and they should be chosen so as to minimize curtailment of services to the public so far as possible.

The purpose of the threat is not to punish Aslef or seek partial revenge upon it but to drive home the lesson that there is no commercial future for the railways, no security for its employees and no grand investment strategy unless management and men, individually and through their unions, heartily accept the objective of productive efficiency. As chairman of the board Sir Peter Parker has preached and practised that. He has rightly staked a lot on the issue of flexible working by footplatemen, for that is the key factor obstructing the efficient use of their time. If he fails to carry the point he will resign, he says. The conjunction would be greatly regretted. But the priority Sir Peter has insisted upon will survive him. One may be confident that any successor appointed by this government will share that priority. It will not go away.

## TEST FOR SPANISH DEMOCRACY

The military trial which opens outside Madrid today will be followed with close attention both inside and outside Spain. Before the court will be those officers, including three generals, who have been charged with responsibility for the attempted coup of a year ago. The attempt dealt a shattering blow to the self-confidence of Spain's fledgling democracy, and one from which it has still not recovered. So the way in which the case is handled, and the verdicts which are reached, will be vital for the future of that democracy. They will show whether the system which has developed since the death of General Franco is strong enough to handle the outright assault which it underwent last February; and whether it has a chance of preventing further attempts of the same sort in future.

To most outside observers in western Europe, it is self-evident that last February's attempt was an outrage against the government and the people of Spain. A small group of military men, dissatisfied with the way things were going, decided to take the law into their own hands and impose their own views on the rest of the country by force. A detachment from the Civil Guard seized the Parliament building and held the members at gunpoint, while attempts were made to rally support from military commanders elsewhere round the country. The attempt failed because of hesitations among

these commanders and because King Juan Carlos threw the whole weight of his own prestige into combating the coup.

But that is not the way that it appeared to many members of the armed forces and to rightists in Spain's civilian population. To them, the attempted coup was the work of patriots taking justified action against the ills they saw in contemporary Spain — the terrorism in the Basque country, the poor state of the economy, the increase in crime and even such steps as the move to legalize divorce. Most damaging of all would be a decision to impose no more than derisory sentences on any officers found guilty.

The government of Señor Calvo Sotelo was aware of these risks when it decided, in the aftermath of the attempted coup, to hand the case over to the military system of justice. It could have had the defendants tried in a civil court, and that might have seemed to be the proper place, since they are charged with conspiring to overthrow the government. But it was afraid then, and it is still afraid, of an angry reaction from the army if it felt it was demeaned.

There are clear advantages in having the case heard before a military court, provided it is properly handled. A severe sentence passed by fellow officers would have a good chance of being accepted by the greater part of the army, while a similar sentence passed by a civil court might seem to them to be vindictive. And it would do much to disabuse the officer caste of the notion, deeply rooted in Spanish history, that it is above the law. The lesson would be timely as Spain prepares to join the other western European democracies in Nato and the European Community.

## HIGHER SPEED AND HIGHER PRICE

At the very time that petrol prices are falling by 5 per cent and more, the state electricity and gas industries are now announcing increases of around 10 and 25 per cent respectively in their tariffs. Not for the first time, the British consumer is being faced with the glaring disparity between the free market where prices have responded to recession and the state sector where prices continue to rise in response to costs rather than demand. Not for the first time, the consumer's response has been to blame the inefficiencies and monopoly power of the nationalized industries.

Understandable this reaction may be. Fair it is not. The rate of increase in gas prices in particular, but also of electricity prices, is very much the reflection of political decision rather than internal efficiency (although inefficiency there is undoubtedly). Three years ago the Government decided that gas prices which had tended to be low compared to other fuels because of North Sea gas prices agreed in pre-energy crisis days, should rise by around 10 per cent above inflation for three years so that they could close the gap with competitive fuels such as electricity. The coming financial year will be the third year of such policy, conveniently completing the cycle in good time to see a slowing down in gas prices in the run-up to an election. The electricity industry decision on prices is a little different. In its case, the rate of increase has been imposed by the target of

return set by the government two years ago — a target which the industry now feels is too tight for a recession but which the government, or rather the Treasury, has insisted must be adhered to. The result in both cases, is a series of price rises for which the nationalized industries disclaim responsibility, from which the government conveniently keeps its distance and which the consumer none-the-less has to suffer.

There is reason in this madness. In seeking deliberately to accelerate the pace of gas price rises beyond the wishes of the gas industry, the government has been trying to bring some balance to the competitive market for fuels. By an accident of history, the gas industry arranged a series of long-term contracts at prices agreed before the explosion of oil costs in 1972/73. The benefit of this has been enjoyed partly by the industry, which has recorded record profits in recent years, and partly by the gas consumer, particularly the domestic gas consumer, who has enjoyed gas prices which in real terms are still less than they were a decade ago and as much as 30-50 per cent below competitive oil or electricity prices. The reverse side of this is that it entails for mounting state losses, poor management morale and low efficiency. In imposing this set of increases, the government is undermining the very policies it should be trying to promote — a greater efficiency and better management by the public sector.

The madness in this reason is that the competitive energy balance would have been

restored over time even without government intervention, since the gas industry is having to pay far higher prices for new gas supplies. As these supplies take over from declining traditional low-cost supplies, so the price of gas would have had to rise at a sharp rate without any intervention.

In one sense, it is an argument primarily about fine tuning. The gas industry would prefer to adopt a slower pace of price increases to preserve more of the benefit to its own customers just as the electricity industry would prefer a slacker financial target to allow it to cope better with the effects of recession on demand. The government prefers a slightly faster pace of adjustment to avoid distortions in the market, to raise its revenue from gas and to protect coal. The difference to the consumer is one of timing rather than degree. But it is also an important question of principle. For a government to intervene in nationalized industry pricing for reasons other than to prevent a misuse of monopoly power is always dangerous. This year's intervention for broader policy reasons is next year's intervention for short-term political reasons, with all that this entails for mounting state losses, poor management morale and low efficiency. In imposing this set of increases, the government is undermining the very policies it should be trying to promote — a greater efficiency and better management by the public sector.

The madness in this reason is that the competitive energy balance would have been

## Uncertain victory in rail settlement

From Mr R. J. W. Crabbé

Sir, I have been astonished at the easy acceptance by press and television of Ray Buckton's obviously propaganda cry of "total victory". No account seems to have been taken of the implications of the very precise proposals for a settlement put forward by the McCarthy-Rail's demand that Aslef should implement by February 10, 1982, what it had already agreed to implement by January 1, 1982, to "fully implement" its "total defeat" for them on the issue that really matters.

The central point of contention throughout has been British Rail's demand that Aslef should confirm its acceptance of the August requirements for flexible rostering before the 3 per cent is paid. This is the exact procedure laid down in the McCarthy scheme for a settlement.

Specifically, these proposals, as quoted in your issue of today, (February 17), propose, as the first step, that Aslef should confirm its commitment to flexible rostering under the clause of the August agreement which reads:

Variable rostering hours within limits shall be negotiated. Negotiations shall take place to establish a standard of rostering which will be consistent with the introduction of some flexibility around the eight-hour day, but without producing unreasonable variation in the length of each working day or week. These discussions shall be concluded by October 31, 1981.

The next step is for Aslef and British Rail to agree a tight timetable for implementing this commitment. Only when these steps are complete is it proposed that British Rail should pay the 3 per cent — and Aslef call off its strike.

Whatever legalistic ambiguities there may have been in the agreements of last summer, this proposed programme makes it quite clear that the committee believes that Aslef has made a commitment to flexible rostering — a commitment which Ray Buckton has once again averred that they have no intention of honouring.

Yours faithfully,  
R. J. W. CRABBE,  
Fairways,  
166 Lower Green Road,  
Esher,  
Surrey,  
February 17.

From Mr A. T. Cropper

Sir, I think that Mr Buckton, in claiming victory, has missed the whole reason why many other people are disgusted with his actions. We realize that he is canny enough never to have committed to paper a clear agreement to flexible rostering.

Yours truly,  
SEBASTIAN GARMAN,  
79 Ealing Road,  
Brentford,  
Middlesex,  
February 17.

## Easing tax burden

From the President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Sir, While we must applaud any easing of the burden of taxation, the suggestion of Sir William Clark and Mr Michael Grylls (February 15) that the Chancellor's immediate priority should be easing the income-tax burden on individuals is not the message we in the North-West are hearing from industry and commerce.

The main demand from our companies is for a reduction in industry's costs: in the surcharge on National Insurance, in the cost of energy, in local authority rates, and in the prices charged by other public-sector authorities which are not faced with the fierce kind of competition that the private sector has to face.

Soaring increases, such as that proposed in the price of gas, particularly concern our companies.

## European Court powers

From Mr Michael Fallon

Sir, Mr Bewsher (February 9) surprisingly understates his case, which goes far beyond the Scotch whisky industry. Governments of the member states erect far more barriers than any commercial company, even the largest multinational. To force companies to treat as harmonised markets which governments insist on keeping disparate is not only unfair but often very inefficient.

The difficulty arises, in part, from the obligation on individuals or companies injured by contravention of Community law by a member state to seek redress in the national courts of that state. Face Mr Tyrrell (February 4) this may involve five or more years' litigation in courts of first instance, courts of appeal

and courts of cassation before the question reaches the Court of Justice which, even then, cannot award damages. Furthermore, national laws and practice on damages differ widely in the member states.

What is required, if justice is to mean justice, is the right for such individuals or companies to sue the appropriate government for damages before the Court of Justice direct. The granting of such a right would unleash forces for harmonisation far greater than those enjoyed by the Commission and would, moreover, massively improve the popularity of the Community in the eyes of those, like Mr Bewsher, at present suffering from a dual standard of law enforcement.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL FALLON,  
51 Penham Road, W14.  
February 12.

## Lifeboat wireless fees

From Commodore L. J. Thomas

Sir, I wonder if many of your readers are aware of a tax imposed on the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution) which, while small in terms of revenue for the Government, is a serious drain on the funds of an organization that is supported entirely by voluntary contributions.

I refer to the wireless telephone fees payable in respect of wireless transmitters/receivers fitted to lifeboats. These fees were increased enormously from January 1, 1981 (from £6.40 to £17.50 a year in the case of an offshore lifeboat). As a result the RNLI must find over £5,000 a year to cover the cost of licences for its lifeboats. Obviously these boats cannot function effectively without wireless communication.

Representations to the Home Office have received the reply that:

(i) They have no power under the Wireless Telegraphy Act to waive licence fees.  
(ii) If amending legislation was introduced it would be difficult to refuse similar requests from

other organizations.

The only other organizations covering search and rescue operations at sea on any scale are HM Coastguard and the Ministry of Defence (Navy and Air) who are not liable to pay wireless telephony licence fees. It therefore appears impossible for any damage precedent to be created. The problem of drafting amending legislation should therefore be negligible, should it prove really necessary.

My letter is written on behalf of the members of Chichester Yacht Club, who consider the present situation as most unfair. Their views must be shared by anyone having an interest in safety at sea. We find it hard to understand why the representations already made by the RNLI and the RYA (Royal Yachting Association) to the Home Office over a considerable period should have fallen on such deaf ears.

Yours sincerely,

L. J. THOMAS,  
Chichester Yacht Club,  
Chichester Yacht Basin,  
Birdham,  
Chichester,  
Sussex.

February 4.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### How shall a child know its parent?

From Dr Alexina McWhirrie

Sir, Recent correspondence, and particularly your leader of February 10, "A matter of origins", has highlighted the parallel between AID and adoption on the question of the child's need to know about its origins. There is indeed a close parallel, and, as in the early years of adoption practice, AID practice has really had the point of view of the childless couple or parents in mind rather than that of the child.

In fact much current discussion about the importance of secrecy and confidentiality in AID is reminiscent of what was reported to the various departmental committees on adoption in 1921 and 1925 and the Departmental Committee on Adoption Societies and Agencies in 1937. Since then research into adoption outcome has opened up the whole area of communication within adoptive families, or one could say between children and the adults who "parent" them but who are not their birth parents.

Yours faithfully,

ALEXINA M. McWHIRRIE,  
Orchard Hill,  
3 Windmill Lane,  
Wheatley, Oxford.

From Mr K. Campbell

Sir, Amidst the debate on extracorporeal fertilization and artificial insemination by donor much has been made of the need of a child to know its "genetic origin". It may be salutary to be reminded of the discussion following a study on antibody formation. The participants were Dr. E. Phillips (then consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at the Royal Northern Hospital, London); Lord Kilbrandon (then lord of appeal in ordinary); and Sir John Stallworthy (then Nuffield Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Oxford University).

Dr Phillips: "We blood-tested some patients in a town in south-east England and found that 30 per cent of the husbands could not be sure of the identity of their children." Dr Kilbrandon: "Mr Phillips' figures are quite accurate." Sir John Stallworthy: "What was the extent of that group?"

Dr Phillips: "Not large — between 200 and 300 — but large enough to give us a large sample." Dr Kilbrandon: "Mr Phillips' figures are quite accurate." Sir John Stallworthy: "What was the extent of that group?"

Dr Phillips: "Yes, it is a minimum."

It is indeed a wise child who knows his own father.

Yours faithfully,  
K. CAMPBELL,  
Haematology Department,  
Bucklands Hospital,  
Coombe Valley Road,  
Dover, Kent.

withstand a close siege from the landward side only arose from the collapse of the British defence of Malaya because of shortcomings in equipment and training.

Thus the peculiarly enduring myth that no one had thought of the Japanese attacking Singapore via "the backdoor" is quite fallacious. Why, one wonders, is it repeated endlessly?

Yours faithfully,  
CORRELL BARNETT,  
University of Cambridge History Faculty,  
West Road,  
Cambridge.  
February 15.

From Mr G. N. Burton

Sir, I was captured by the Japanese at the fall of Singapore and am glad to have survived to challenge the assertions made by Anthony Kemp today (February 15) about the present feelings of former prisoners of war.

Though physically beaten by some of them, I do not hate the Japanese, nor do I feel an understandable sense of bitterness and frustration". Possibly POWs in Germany were generally more fortunate in the ways their captors treated them, but I see no point in such jealous and vindictive comparisons.

On the contrary, I am sure many POWs are grateful for a range of experience which included the human nature on both sides. At its worst and at its most sublime, I for one claim that "the bitter end" is much less bitter than your article suggests, and, touch wood, my Datsun is running very well!

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY N. BURTON,  
Hill View,  
Rector Lane,  
Compton Martin,  
Bristol.

February 15.

charge of any educational system, in Ealing or elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER CROFT,  
Members' Room,  
Town Hall, Ealing, W5.

Legal precedence

From the Reverend John Pollock

Sir, The Master of the Rolls recently broke a record. My great-grandfather, Lord Chief Baron Pollock, was the oldest common law judge ever to sit in the Bench when he retired in 1882 at the age of 82 years and nine months. Lord Denning has already exceeded him by three months; long may he continue.

The similarities between these eminent lawyers a century apart are interesting. Pollock's father was a saddler, Lord Denning's a draper. Both had



## COURT AND SOCIAL

### COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
February 18: His Excellency, Mr Samuel Akana Mpuchane was received in audience by The Queen and presented the letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner from the Republic of Botswana in London.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following Members of the High Commission, who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Mr M. B. Neising (Counselor) and Mr D. Rendell (First Secretary).

Mr Mpuchane had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Mr Derek Day (Deputy Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty was present, and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Sir Edward Youle was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Hong Kong.

Lady Youle had the honour of being received by Her Majesty.

The Queen gave a luncheon party for The President of the Republic of Iceland.

The following had the honour of being invited: His Excellency Mr Olafur Johannesson (Minister for Foreign Affairs) and Mrs Inhulda, His Excellency the Icelandic Ambassador and Mrs Bjarnason, the Lord Privy Seal and Mrs Atkins, Mr Lindsay Anderson, Professor and Mrs John Bayley, Mr and Mrs Ian Beer and Mr and Mrs Magnus Magnusson.

Her Majesty invested The President of the Republic of Iceland with the insignia of a Dame Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the World Wildlife Fund, left Heathrow Airport, London, this morning in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight to visit Austria, Egypt, India, Oman, Pakistan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Tunisia.

Major John Cargin is in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE  
February 18: Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Sanders today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen.

### Forthcoming marriages

Mr C P Anstee and Miss S C Spencer

The engagement is announced between Christopher, only son of Mr and Mrs C P Anstee, of Cape Town, South Africa, and Candy, youngest daughter of the late Lieutenant Colonel E L Spencer and Mrs Spencer, of near Glastonbury, Somerset.

Mr G D Lyndon Skeggs and Miss M L Feilden

The engagement is announced between Douglas, younger son of Dr and Mrs P Lyndon Skeggs, of the Grange, Preston, Lancashire, and Imogen, second daughter of Mr and Mrs M G Feilden of Lubhorn House, Balbriggan, near Dublin, Ireland.

Mr R N C Morris and Miss J E Taylor

The engagement is announced between Charles, only son of Mr and Mrs R Morris of Radlett, Hertfordshire, and Jillian, elder daughter of Mr R J E Taylor, of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, and Mrs J C Todd, of Palm Desert, California, United States.

Major G C Rush and Mrs J C Calnan

The engagement is announced between George Campion Rush, of Farley Hill, Berkshire, husband of the late Eileen Rush, and Patricia Joy Calnan, of Reading, wife of the late Denis John Calnan, RN.

Mr T J Somes and Miss J D Turner

The engagement is announced between Trevor Irwin, son of Mr and Mrs Cyril Costley-White, CMG, and of Mrs Elisabeth Costley-White, of Duxter, Somerset, and Charlotte, Elizabeth, widow of Dr and Mrs Stephen Way, of Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Mr D R Costley-White and Miss M A Jakubski

The engagement is announced between David Richard, son of the late Cyril Costley-White, CMG, and of Mrs Elisabeth Costley-White, of Duxter, Somerset, and Sophie, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Whately, of Duxter.

Mr G C Colman-Rogers and Miss S L Whately

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, eldest son of the late Mr David Colman-Rogers, of Stanage Park, Rotherham, and Mrs Alastair Lyell, of Painswick, Gloucestershire, and Sophie, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Whately, of Duxter.

Mr R C Costley-White and Miss S C Preble

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, Frederick Dreyer of 1022F Woodson Road, Baltimore, MD 21212, United States, younger son of Captain and Mrs Raymond Dreyer, of Ottawa, Canada, and Sheryn Ceci, Prelie, of Christchurch, New Zealand, daughter of Mr and Mrs Cecil Preble of Ashburton, New Zealand.

Mr E J Fraher and Miss M S O'Neill

The engagement is announced between Kevin, only son of the late Mr and Mrs E J Fraher, of Capoquin, Co Waterford, and Marie, only daughter of the late Mr W J O'Neill and Mrs Mai O'Neill, of Capparain, Co Tipperary, and Putney, London.

Mr D T Frank and Miss D L Abbott

The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr and Mrs T Frank, of Shrewsbury, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs A Abbott, of Farnham Common, Buckinghamshire.

Mr H A Goodman and Miss S Miller

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Perry and Marcia Goodman, of London, W2, and Sara, daughter of Alan and Janet Miller, of Mill Hill.

Mr H A Lorrie and Miss H R Knorpel

The engagement is announced between Hilton Anthony, only son of Mr and Mrs Clem Lorrie, of 43, Montreal Avenue, Leeds, and Helen Rowan, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Knorpel, of 32 Sunnybank, Epsom, Surrey.

Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, The Queen's Own Hussars, upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer of The Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jeremy Phipps also had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming his appointment as Commanding Officer of The Queen's Own Hussars.

YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE

February 18: The Duke of Kent today attended the Electric Components Industry Federation dinner at the Savoy Hotel.

Captain John Stewart was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent today opened Emmanuel Court, Clifton, the Bristol Old People's Welfare incorporated.

Mrs David Napier was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

February 18: Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present this evening at the British premiere of the film "Priest of Love", given in aid of the Royal Marsden Hospital Cancer Fund for the Carol Hazel Appeal at the Odeon Theatre, Kensington.

Sir Edward Youle was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Hong Kong.

Lady Youle had the honour of being received by Her Majesty.

The Queen gave a luncheon party for The President of the Republic of Iceland.

The Duke of Edinburgh has been pleased to appoint Lieutenant-Commander Andrew Guy Wynd, Royal Navy, to be Equerry to His Royal Highness, in place of Major John Malcolm Vincent Macmillan, Captain Royal Irish Rangers, who relinquishes the appointment on July 31.

Prince Andrew is 22 today.

The Duchess of Gloucester will attend the Ambassadorial Ball Soror Francaise in aid of the UNICEF at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, on February 22.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will be admitted as Honorary Freemen of the City of Gloucester and Honorary Colonels-in-Chief, the Gloucestershire Regiment, accompanied by Her Royal Highness, will review his regiment on April 24.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Lord Mordt will be held on Thursday, March 11, 1982, at St Clement Danes, Strand, London, WC2, at noon.

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The engagement is announced between Douglas, younger son of Dr and Mrs P Lyndon Skeggs, of the Grange, Preston, Lancashire, and Imogen, second daughter of Mr and Mrs M G Feilden of Lubhorn House, Balbriggan, near Dublin, Ireland.

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The engagement is announced between Kevin, only son of the late Mr and Mrs E J Fraher, of Capoquin, Co Waterford, and Marie, only daughter of the late Mr W J O'Neill and Mrs Mai O'Neill, of Capparain, Co Tipperary, and Putney, London.

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The engagement is announced between Hilton Anthony, only son of Mr and Mrs Clem Lorrie, of 43, Montreal Avenue, Leeds, and Helen Rowan, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Knorpel, of 32 Sunnybank, Epsom, Surrey.

Mr R J Adams and Miss D C Street

A service of blessing took place on February 18, at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, following the marriage of Mr Robert Adams to Miss Clare Street. A reception was held afterwards at the Royal Opera House.

Marriages

Mr G Nevill and Lady Beatrice Lambton

The marriage took place yesterday in London between Mr Guy Nevill, elder son of Lord and Lady Rupert Nevill, and Lady Beatrice Lambton, daughter of Lord and Lady Lambton.

Mr R J Adams and Miss D C Street

A service of blessing took place on February 18, at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, following the marriage of Mr Robert Adams to Miss Clare Street. A reception was held afterwards at the Royal Opera House.

£24,200 for timepiece

A sale of watches, clocks and scientific instruments was held at Sotheby's yesterday totalling £276,951. The top price of the sale was £24,200 for a mid-eighteenth-century gold and agate timepiece, in the form of a casket, the lid opening to reveal a verge watch movement by Charles Cabrier, of London.

The top price was £2,640, paid for lot 91a, a Queen Anne walnut bureau (est £2,000 to £3,000). Lot 53, a fine Dutch walnut and marquetry centre table, fetched £2,145 and a Scandinavian secretaire abattu, around 1820 (est £1,000 to £1,500) realized £1,550.

repeating bracket timepiece, by John Knibb.

Also at Sotheby's a sale of silver totalled £71,961 with a top price of £2,640 paid by an Australian for a George III oval tea caddy.

Sotheby's held a sale of English and Continental furniture yesterday, which totalled £47,080, 20 per cent unsold.

The top price was £2,640, paid for lot 91a, a Queen Anne walnut bureau (est £2,000 to £3,000). Lot 53, a fine Dutch walnut and marquetry centre table, fetched £2,145 and a Scandinavian secretaire abattu, around 1820 (est £1,000 to £1,500) realized £1,550.



A portrait by Juliet Pannett of Sir William Gladstone, Chief Scout, who retires next Wednesday, when the painting, commissioned by the Scouts Association, will be unveiled at the association's headquarters in Queen's Gate, west London.

## Sotheby's Belgravia to close

By Frances Gribble

High interest rates and inflation have forced Sotheby's to streamline their auctioneers to streamline their entire United Kingdom operation which involves the closure of their Belgravia saleroom with the thinning down of salerooms in Torquay and Chester and redundancies in most branches.

Mr Graham Llewellyn, chief executive, said yesterday that although the art market was not in a state as some reports indicated, it was "in the finest state ever". Sales were down.

Some 60 staff at Sotheby's Belgravia saleroom, which was set up in 1971 to promote the Victorian collecting market, were told on Friday that most of their department would be with missing departments at the main saleroom in Bond Street.

That move, planned for some time, has been precipitated by Sotheby's purchase of part of the Steinway building adjacent to the Bond Street premises. Mr Llewellyn said all the specialist

collectors' sales would continue. Staff at Belgravia had naturally built up an esprit de corps there and "it is not funny to lose colleagues as friends", he said. "But we believe it is a very positive step which will have great benefits, bringing everything to one place."

There would inevitably be some redundancies, which would largely be dealt with by natural wastage. Since the streamlining started last September some 70 of the 1,000 United Kingdom staff had taken voluntary redundancy. He could not say what the target figure was.

At Torquay, 10 people are to be made redundant. At Chester six people are to go. Mr Llewellyn said that the service would be maintained in both places.

Sotheby's in New York recently sold about 200 staff through voluntary redundancy. Last July it announced a turnover in their London saleroom of £93,204,000 and in the

rest of the United Kingdom £9,630,000.

For the first time last year Sotheby's declined to release their end-of-the-year figures. Mr Llewellyn said that despite the firm had been specifically decided they were not representative of the season's trading and would no longer be disclosing them. He agreed that the art market was suffering in some sections, such as armchairs, while in others it had recovered 50% to the year's turnover. Vendors were not willing to put up quality stones on the market when they once fetched £80,000 a carat and now made £40,000-£50,000 a carat, he said.

Sotheby's yesterday launched

an international poetry auction, with 100 lots of £10,000, of which £15,000 plus 12 bottles of claret selected by the Master of Wines at Sotheby's. The next four winners take £4,000, £3,000, £2,000 and £1,000 and several bottles of claret, all the other winners receive two bottles.

At the auction, the BBC will be providing a live link to the sale.

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At the auction, the BBC will

## Theatre

### The power of evil

#### The Portage to San Cristobal of A.H.

##### Mermaid

It is George Steiner's belief that tragedy and language itself have been irreparably damaged by the bestial events of this century, and that human imagination is impotent to grasp the recorded facts. In *The Portage* he had the courage not only to put his own imagination to the test, but to do so through the ultimate fictional cliché with which Peter Ustinov once summed up the fatuity of Hitler: "Hitler: Is He Dead?"

The novel examines the dilemma that has haunted the Western conscience since the Nuremberg Trials: what justice can there be for criminals whose acts dwarf all previous notions of human crime? It also shows a Jewish intellectual, for whom language defines our moral condition, using all his powers to penetrate the mind of the enemy.

To transfer such a work to the stage is not simply a technical matter. It shifts a piece of philosophic fiction in the direction of melodrama; and moves the figure of Hitler back into his favourite role, as star actor, now also credited with the sympathetic assets of extreme old age.

Christopher Hampton's adaptation finds a master key to the work through simultaneous action, for which Jocelyn Herbert supplies three acting areas: the black stage floor for the Brazilian forest where Hitler is run to earth by a Jewish expedition; a platform which is trucked on for the interior scenes; and an upper gallery, occupied for the first half of the play by Sebastian Shaw, as Hitler's implacable hunter, directing operations over the radio, delivering litanies of the Jewish dead as if numbering the sands of the sea, and warning his men not to let their captive speak, not even to look at him because of the "human mask" he wears.

Meanwhile, as news of the capture leaks out, we see its repercussions around the world: we see Soviet history being rewritten, British diplomacy coolly digesting the rumours, a bourgeois Ger-

man survivor dismissing the past as "exaggerated" and the United States State Department reducing the case to international law — there, in the background, there appears the spectral party in the forest, carrying their burden through fever-infested swamps toward the distant goal of San Cristobal.

The central meaning of the play is in these glimpses of the external world. These people, no less than the unnumbered victims of the death camps, are inheritors of the Nazi legacy; numbered by the normality of genocide, and incapable of the human response of former ages. The response is in tragic contrast to the bummel speeches of Liner at his radio set, endlessly reciting his catalogue of atrocities lest it should be forgotten or come to be taken for granted.

The central event also grows from that same contrast: focusing on one set of vultures who plan to move in by helicopter, massacre the Jewish party, and auction their captive to the highest bidder. And the last image in John Dexter's production is of the old man, looking out with huge wild eyes, as the helicopter engines swell to a murderous crescendo.

Alex McCowen, for good or ill, occupies the stage in a hugely spectacular star part; fearlessly prepared, building suspense through long silence, and finally speaking for 25 minutes in the forest.

The substance of his speech, namely that Hitler claims credit for the birth of modern Israel, has been widely publicised. What McCowen adds to it is a Satanic quality that undercuts the argument even at its most invincibly logical.

Derision, loathing, parody, and a grating vocal sound, like a clarinet with a split reed, are the colours he uses; all the more powerful for avoiding any attempt at direct vocal imitation. Any sense that this pathetic old man is irrelevant to the world debate ranging around his exhausted shall is disproved by the performance. Dexter's production is about the positive power of evil as well as about our numbered response to it.

Irving Wardle

## Television

### Magnetic ring

Herol "Bomber" Graham is black, beautiful in the way of an athlete, floats like a butterfly but has yet to prove he can sting like a bee. BBC's Forty Minutes took a walk round him as he trained, fought for and won the British Commonwealth light middleweight title last November and showed us the result of their research last night.

Andy Stevenson's production was amiable rather than gripping. The fight got in the way. Graham is the pride of Sheffield, a loving father, though not a husband, and a comic turn at working men's clubs, where he clowns well while hopefully trying to hit him.

He trains to the music of Glen Miller, pleasantly nostalgic but not the ideal tempo for a "lazy bastard" as his manager, Brendan Ingle, affectionately calls him. Ingle is an Irishman dedicated to Graham and boxing, whose gym is open to all, a school where he seeks to turn bad boys into good ones, good ones into better ones.

There is no doubt that Ingle has, as they say, in his own country, the gift. He can charm a bird from a tree and, apparently, a boxer boy from the National Front. Graham looks on him with fatherly pride, takes the odd slur on his legitimacy with filial good humour.

On ITV, Lorimar Productions' these wonderful people who gave us that nightmarish slice of the American dream, *Dallas*, offered the first excerpt of a long — 18 episodes —

Dennis Hackett

## Concert

### The Apostles

#### Festival Hall/Radio 3

For the second night in succession at the Festival Hall, an important work of Elgar had Soviet conductor Rozhdestvensky addressed himself on Wednesday to *The Apostles*, the largest of Elgar's achievements in scale and subject matter, for the BBC Symphony Orchestra's concert which was also broadcast on Radio 3.

I took the opportunity to hear the first part in the hall and the second over the radio, not for the first time wondering how a different balance can affect a listener's impressions, especially where large forces are involved.

It is true that, from the moment of Peter's betrayal of Jesus near the start of the oratorio's second part, Elgar's own musical imagination takes wing in a way that seldom characterizes the earlier passages, where the give and take of individual voices, as in the section "by the wayside", add up to little more than the sum of their parts in musical terms.

Mr Rozhdestvensky made, I thought, a cautious start to

the oratorio. At first the combined voices of the BBC Singers and Chorus and the Goldsmiths Choral Union seemed less than convinced that the spirit of the Lord was indeed upon them, as the opening chorus would have it, although they acclaimed the dawn and sang the morning psalm with suitable fervour. How sad that Elgar's interest in oriental embellishment could not be indulged with the shofar he wanted here instead of a trumpet.

Might he perhaps have written an opera, had he wished? John Shirley-Quirk would have us believe so, as Peter's denials came strongly through the texture over the air, and no less vivid was Malcolm King's singing of Judas.

This performance was one that generated no great strength of spirit from within, but which was usually evocative in a pictorial sense, as in the Golgotha scene of Mary (Felicity Lott) and John (Kenneth Wollam), and the angelic chorus at the Holy Sepulchre. Alfreda Hodgson sang a cool Magdalene and David Wilson-Johnson a dignified Jesus.

Noel Goodwin

In three weeks the Barbican Centre, costing a decade and a fortune, will be open to the artistic elements. There are doubters still, but Henry Wrong, administrator from the start, has never lost faith . . .

## Programmed right across the board

"There'll never be another one!" Max Miller used to warn his audiences, in case there were those not making the most of their opportunity to see and hear him. The same claim could fairly be made by the Barbican Arts Centre after its official opening on March 3. The Barbican received the go-ahead on April 15, 1970, at an estimated cost of £16m, and it has been five years, a fifth under ten times that figure. No arts complex of comparable size and scope is likely to be seen in western Europe for many moons to come.

Henry Wrong has been in charge of the Barbican project throughout those 12 years. He is a Canadian, given to soft-toned speech and bright-toned ties. Wrong was once described as looking like a cultured owl, but there is little owlish in his method of work. He served part of his apprenticeship in arts administration as one of Rudolf Bing's assistants at the Metropolitan Opera, New York, after a spell at Glyndebourne. The Bing influence lingers and Wrong admits that his involvement in the transfer of the Met in the mid-Sixties from its old home on 39th Street to the Lincoln Center has been of crucial help: the commonest criticism of the Barbican, apart from its cost, is its location.

"There are plenty of parallels between the Barbican and that move by the Met. When the Met's uprooting was first mooted there was an outcry from many of the regular patrons. I remember being told time and again that no one went to the West Side, except possibly to catch the boat to Europe. And look at the Lincoln Center now."

"It was exactly the same when the Festival Hall was being built. John Christie at Glyndebourne predicted 'out-and-out' failure. 'People do not cross the Thames to listen to music,' he said, conveniently forgetting for the moment Glyndebourne's own geographical position. Audiences were



The administrator in his office at the Barbican

they are far less set in their habits than many people make out.

"Yes, I confess to Rudi's influence. He killed the attitude among some members of the staff that they didn't have to work. He used to prowl around the Met and make people jump. I practise it myself a little. The other day I found part of the Catering Area at the Barbican resembling Liverpool Street Station on a Saturday night, and I

hope my reaction on that occasion would have made Marin Callas look like Raggedy Ann."

Henry Wrong reckons that his darkest hour was right at the beginning, on that April day in 1970 when the Court of Common Council in the City of London, who are his lords and masters, came close to rejecting the Barbican scheme. Since then the opposition, frequently led by Sir Edward Howard, has remained strident.

It has been disingenuously suggested that a whole new concert-going audience can be created from the City, and those who work there, without affecting takings on the South Bank, which has had its share of sparsely attended evenings this winter. But

"There was another moment in 1975 when Howard appeared totally determined to have that large hole, which was the Barbican site filled in. I think it was then that I lost all my hair" ("A pat on the shining crown"). "Of course there have been moments of acute depression caused by the group I call the 'professional knockers', those who want to destroy every new project and who, once they have failed in one area, immediately turn their attention to another. But possibly even more dispiriting was the opposition that came not from the philistines from within the City itself. Some of it was occasioned by jealousy, some by fear on the part of those who thought that the grants to their own houses might be cut. Others were just simply against us, including one prominent member of the Covent Garden board — although I'm happy to say that he's now changed his mind."

The Barbican's two major tenants are the Royal Shakespeare Company and the London Symphony Orchestra. It was the running costs of the RSC and their new theatre, which is likely to turn out the most glittering jewel in the Barbican's crown, that first caused City apprehension. It was decided to offer the RSC a 25-year lease, reviewable by both sides every three years. The RSC seem to be digging themselves well into their new home. The LSO's situation is based on a shorter-term agreement of a renewable three-year tenancy. The LSO have maintained their foothold in the Festival Hall, wisely, because their job is the more difficult of the two. They have divided their appearances into four-week seasons because the Barbican concert hall will also be required for conferences, and that cuts out uninterrupted rehearsals.

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already there is one programming clash where the same item is being performed on the same evening by different forces north and south of the Thames.

"Of course, we're trying to cater for those who work in the City. That's why we're having a number of early evening performances. And I think we'll be well placed when the four-and-a-half-day working week comes, which it surely will quite soon. But it would be naive to pretend that we're not in competition with the South Bank. It's unfortunate about that clash, but since it's there then let the man win."

"But our programming will be much broader than the Festival Hall's at the moment. I'm aiming for across-the-board listeners and am all in favour of taking popular entertainers, either as part of a European tour or through our own promotion — the Three Degrees will be one of the first. I like popular music." And, to prove the point, Nina Simone and Dorothy Squires will be making their way to the Barbican. A little Radio 2 perhaps.

That may be quite literally looked down upon by the residents of the high-rise blocks around the Barbican. They have already put a stop to the sound of music on the terraces after 10 pm and are by no means all in favour of Henry Wrong's determination to keep the restaurants going after the performances.

"I never want the Barbican to give the impression of being a host who is tired of his guests. Of course there are some residents who see all sorts of bogeymen in every corner, but I hope we'll be able to persuade them that these are phantoms. I'm looking forward to summer evenings on the terraces with music and the sound of the fountains playing on the lake." And if Sir Edward could somehow be persuaded to fall into that lake then doubtless Henry Wrong's pleasure would be complete.

John Higgins

## Opera

### Oberto

#### Collegiate Theatre

### Commedia

#### Sadler's Wells

On Wednesday evening London's University College Opera completed an achievement with their production of Verdi's first opera, *Oberto, Conte di San Bonifacio*. It was the British premiere of the piece, the only one of Verdi's 28 operas that had not been staged here.

During the last 20 years or so, I have seen them all myself: I had to go to Wales for *The Battle of Legnano*, to Oxford for *Joan of Arc*, to Cambridge for *Stiffelio*, but most of them were put on in London by enterprising independent companies, usually in the borough of Camden, as is the case with *Oberto* this week. Camden deserves some sort of medal for the house room it has given to unfamilar Verdi operas.

It is not that Verdi was unpopular here in his life-time. His operas, from *Nabucco* onwards, were often produced in London, but selectively. *I masnadieri* was composed for Covent Garden, and *Stiffelio*, *La Traviata*, *Un ballo in maschera*, *Il Trovatore*, *La Bohème*, *La Tosca*, *La Rondine*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Don Carlo*, *Attila*, *Un giorno di regno*, *La Forza del Destino* and *Verismo* all had British premieres, though *Oberto* was the first to be staged here.

The opera tells a great many stories, none of them convincing. For instance, we are invited to believe that all that happens is at the behest of Brighella, that he is the magus of these charades, and yet it is perfectly clear in this under-cooked production that the prompter is really in charge of the show.

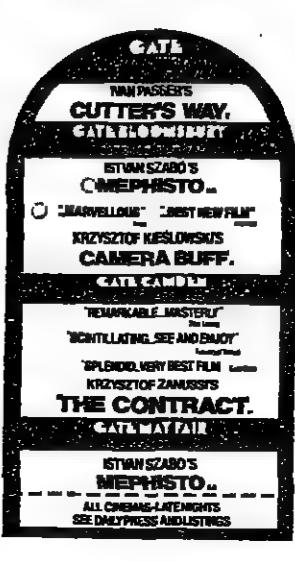
Brighella is as shadowy as the rest of the people on stage and, although Malcolm Rivers sings the part with authority in his tone, his uncertainty about the rhythms betrays a deeper doubt about his function and betrays, too, a complexity in Cowie's vocal writing that works against dramatic effectiveness.

And what are we to make of the others, of Harlequin and his *Colombine*, of the buffoon Pantalone and the crazy Doctor, of a self-sufficient world. There is no illusion, only allusion, multiplied to a point where substance thins to nothingness and even many colours of the primitive tarts of costumes fade into a haze.

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Among the cast, Fiona Kimball is horribly magnificent as the Countess, a woman barbed hard and the two old men, Paul Hudson and John Whetford, try hard to wrest some comic moments from a work not strong on timing. Teresa Cahill sings ravishingly as Colombine and Nigel Robson does his best with the emperor role of Harlequin. James Lockhart, conducting a gorgeous orchestral tapestry, undoubtedly has the most rewarding job of the evening.

Paul Griffiths



## Cinema

### Uncluttered but ominous line

#### Ragtime (AA)

#### ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

#### Priest of Love (AA)

#### Classic, Haymarket

#### Winter of Our Dreams (X)

#### The Lane

gather up some of the missing persons. Forman also tries to simulate the blend of history and fiction by casting performers with historical associations. James Cagney off the screen since *One, Two, Three* in 1961, returns as Police Commissioner Rhinelander Waldo — crusty, rotund, with a curly moustache. Pat O'Brian is briefly seen as a lawyer. Donald O'Connor is a dancer, instructor, while Norman Mailer lends his charisma to Stanford White, an extravagant murderer in *Madison Square Garden*.

But these gambits are used half-heartedly, and the acting strengths certainly lie elsewhere. Elizabeth McGovern, a young performer briefly seen in *Ordinary People*, makes a dazzling, comic life in the turbulent years before the First World War, after bringing the character of Tasha to the brink of a career in moving pictures. Alan Alda impresses as the restless Younger Brother, who ends up a masked member of Coalhouse's gang. Forman has taken typical care over the performances, and one can link *Ragtime* to his previous work in larger ways. It shares with *Autumn Leaves* the uncompliated love of America, from the immigrant jungle of *West Street* to the expansive, country landscape. The treatment of white bigotry and supremacy also connects with the battles for the individual in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. But *Ragtime* also takes Forman into new and ominous territory. Czech films such as *Winter of Our Dreams* and *Autumn Leaves* are set in the melting-pot. Considering the book's wealth of incident, Forman's own lines of flow are strikingly uncluttered. The historical characters are drastically pruned (once put on the screen they would seem fictional anyway), while the climax — the occupation of the Pierrot Morgan Library by Coalhouse Walker — an enraged black musician turned revolutionary — is considerably expanded. But various devices are used to conjure up Doctorow's crowded pages. Newsreels, half-faked and half real,

co, Nottingham, Italy and Cornwall had to be sought out. The hopes and plans took up a decade, and it would be pleasant to report that everything had been worthwhile. But *Priest of Love* is irretrievably crippled by a string of misguided assumptions.

Firstly, the film assumes that the authentic Lawrence can be magically recreated by taking the camera and characters on endless trips to authentic locations. Miles is not an incisive director, and the trips rapidly assume the style of a vapid literary travelogue. Secondly, Alan Alda's script assumes that the only Lawrence who could interest audiences is the scandalous, fiery author of novels that were variously burnt, seized and spattered with words not allowable in the House of Commons.

A further fallacy hovers over the production: the belief that an important British film of quality is best produced by basing the film on original literary material.

With Dickens and David Lean the strategy worked, for the director's talent was equal to his ambitions. But Christopher Miles' obsession with Lawrence (he also filmed *The Virgin and the Gypsy* in 1970) has so far enriched neither literature nor cinema. Ian McKellen gives an adequate impersonation of Lawrence; Janet Suzman makes a firmer impression as his German wife Frieda. Among the supporting players, Ava Gardner

## Late rally in gilts

**ACCOUNT DAYS:** Dealings Began Feb 15. Dealings End Feb 26. § Contango Day, Mar 1. Settlement Day, Mar 8.

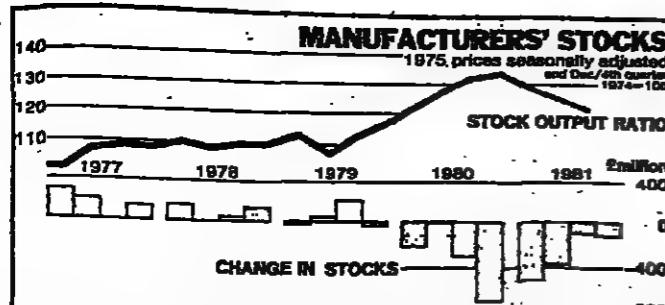
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

# BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY BELL'S

19. *Leucosia* *leucostoma* (Fabricius) *leucostoma* (Fabricius) *leucostoma* (Fabricius)

## BUSINESS NEWS

## Destocking slows



Manufacturing industry cut back its total stocks more in the fourth quarter of last year than in the late summer, but the figures suggest that the worst of destocking is over. There was an increase in work in progress but a drop in raw materials and fuel held. Finished stocks also went down. The ratio between finished stocks and total output has now returned to more normal levels after the worst of the recession.

## Insider dealing alleged

The Department of Trade is prosecuting an employee of merchant bankers Hill Samuel and her husband under the insider dealing sections of the 1980 Companies Act. Mrs Joyce Titheridge, of Sidcup, Kent, is alleged to have procured her husband, Mr John William Titheridge, to deal in the shares of Joseph Stocks & Sons. Mr Titheridge is charged with dealing in the share of stocks and procuring another to deal in the securities. This is the first insider dealing case in England and the second in Britain.

## Building society inquiry

The Blyth & Morpeth District Permanent Benefit Building Society, which has one office in Blyth Northumberland is being investigated by the Registrar of Friendly Societies over discrepancies in its annual accounts. Mr Ron Devlin, the assistant registrar, said yesterday, "Steps have been taken to secure the safety of investors. The Northern Rock building society is managing affairs of the £1.1m Blyth & Morpeth while its future is decided. The amount in question is thought to be small about £16,000. The society's reserves are £130,000.

## SE rule book hearing delayed

The Office of Fair Trading has asked for a further six-month extension to prepare its answer to the Stock Exchange's defence of its rule book. The exchange is being taken to the Restrictive Practices Court because its rules that jobbers may act only as principals and brokers as agents are alleged to represent a restrictive practice.

## MARKET SUMMARY

## Late dash for Amersham

## LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 562.2, up 1.4.  
FT Gilts 85.55, up 0.21.  
FT All-Share 325.09, up 0.12.  
Bargains 17,986.

There was standing room only in Throgmorton Avenue yesterday as investors made a last-minute dash to lodge their applications for shares in Amersham International.

Pundits estimated that the offer for £65m worth of shares would be oversubscribed 20 times with an estimated £1,300m offered by investors.

As a result business in the remainder of the equity market remained low key with prices drifting on lack of interest. A rally on Wall Street earlier on provided some comfort with the FT index closing down at 562.2, after being 3.3 down at 3pm.

Heavy selling of several blue chips did little to help matters. Blue Circle 14p to 50p. Brokers Scrimgeour Kemp Gossage are recommending investors to sell and have downgraded profits by about 25m after the devaluation of the Chilean peso. Profits from Chile last year were about £17m.

Turner & Newall, down 8p at 88p, was another weak market as brokers Hore Gossage downgraded profits from 216m to 216m against 213m last year. Hoare based their assessment on recent poor figures from Philip A Hunt Corp, the group's US subsidiary, and the latest turn of events in Zimbabwe.

Chubb was steady at 113p as a line of 200,000 shares went through the market. Takeover favourite Booker McConnell rose 2p to 73p amid high turnover. A put-through was completed in 1.3m shares with another buyer picking up 1.5m later in the day.

## OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Average 7,683.76 up 39.7.  
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,257.94 up 24.48

## CURRENCIES

• Lower Eurodollar deposit rates, an easier Fed Funds rate and unfounded rumours that President Reagan was planning defence cuts weakened the dollar.

## LONDON CLOSE

STERLING  
\$1.6520 up 165 points  
Index 91.7 unchanged  
DM 4.3850  
Fr 11.1500  
Yen 435.50  
DOLLAR  
Index 112.7 down 0.3  
DM 1.5767 down 215 pts  
SFr 1.369.75 down \$3.25

## TODAY

Gross domestic product, 4th quarter prelim. -  
Company results: Half-yearly -  
J. S. Tietz and Co, Telefusion, Throgmorton, Secured Growth, Finals -  
Kennedy Brooks, Lloyds Bank, F. Miller (Textile), Phoenix Mining and Finance, Scottish United Investors, Tace, Walhams.

## Nissan delays decision on UK car plant

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Nissan of Japan will probably not now make a decision about its proposed United Kingdom car manufacturing plant until the late spring.

This further display of indecision by the Japanese company, which makes Datsun cars, came as a high-level team of executives led by Mr Masataka Okuma, Nissan's executive vice president, discussed the project with Department of Industry officials in Whitehall yesterday.

Mr Patrick Jenkins, Secretary of State for Industry, was involved in the talks which centred on the amount of Government aid that might be available for the new operation and on the level of local content of Nissan's British-made cars.

Mr Okuma's team was told that while the Government welcomed the Nissan project, it would not be accepted by ministers at any price.

Nissan originally spoke of a United Kingdom investment of about £300m, but this has since been revised substantially after a reappraisal of model plans. The company is now believed to be considering building more than one model at its British factory, with a consequent increase in engine output.

Regional development grants and selective financial assistance could cover up to half of the proposed investment but, in return, the Government is seeking firm commitments from the Japanese on the level and definition of locally-made parts and components to be used in the cars.

Mr Jenkins and his colleagues have faced pressure from two fronts on the local content issue. At home, a campaign led by Ford, itself, has urged the Government to impose strict conditions on Nissan. It insists that during the start-up phase the United Kingdom-made Datsuns should have at least 60 per cent local - meaning European - content.

The European Commission, which has been subject to intense lobbying from the French motor industry, has applied similar pressure. The French fear that its desire to create employment in depressed areas, the British government will accept what could be an assembly operation for Japanese-produced parts and allow greater Japanese penetration of the European car market.

This is proving to be a big sticking point in the negotiations, with the Japanese this week claiming that their chances of making a profit might rest on starting the UK operation with less than 60 per cent local content.

When Nissan first announced its intentions in January last year, it hoped to make a decision by the summer. This was put off until the autumn and then again until early this year, largely because of doubts over profitability.

Ministers still believe, however, that Nissan is keen to come to Britain rather than any other European country. They are anxious to achieve clarification of the component issue and to be ready to meet the inevitable outbursts from the development area that Nissan rejects.

## Morecambe gas

Plans for the development of British Gas Morecambe Bay field, 25 miles off the Lancashire coast, were approved yesterday by the Department of Energy. The £1,000m development will involve about six production platforms and a mobile jack-up drilling rig which will drill the first "slanted" wells in United Kingdom waters.

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## US to proceed with steel pricing cases

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Feb 18

The United States International Trade Commission voted today to go ahead with 38 of 52 unfair pricing cases filed against European steelmakers in nine countries. Six of the cases are against Britain.

In a preliminary ruling, which represents a big setback to European steel companies, the ITC ruled there is enough evidence of injury to continue 38 of the investigations but not in 54 additional complaints filed by United States companies.

The continued cases cover altogether about two thirds of the total steel import volume flowing into the United States from European countries.

Mr Bill Arlberger, chairman of the ITC, said it is significant that the commission agreed to go ahead with a greater number of the anti-dumping and unfair pricing cases than it did in May 1980, when only 29 cases were continued.

Mr Arlberger said the ruling meant the commission believes there are enough signs of injury to United States producers to "warrant further investigation." The ruling should by no means be read as a signal that the ITC intends to make a final

decision in recent weeks, the European Community and some United States steel companies have indicated their willingness to negotiate a diplomatic settlement rather than let these steel cases continue through the adjudication process, possibly resulting in the unacceptable duties and the collapse of some European producers.

Increasingly, in recent weeks, the European Community and some United States steel companies have indicated their willingness to negotiate a diplomatic settlement rather than let these steel cases continue through the adjudication process, possibly resulting in the unacceptable duties and the collapse of some European producers.

High crew costs, tax and administrative costs have led to ships operating under some European flags to become as expensive as American-operated vessels.

European bulk carrier operators are attempting to trim their costs either by reducing crew levels or by "reflating" - transferring registry of their vessels to countries with lower costs.

A report published yesterday by H. P. Drewry, the shipping consultants, said: "As the current shipping

recession deepens during 1982 more and more North European shipping companies will lose money, will be unable to compete under their own flag with their own nationals as crew."

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European bulk carrier operators are attempting to trim their costs either by reducing crew levels or by "reflating" - transferring registry of their vessels to countries with lower costs.

The scheme will be administered by a newly-formed Deposit Protection Board which will be able to make further levies up to a maxi-

um of £300,000 although no

bank can be made to contribute more than 0.3 per cent of its deposits in total.

The limit has been set to encourage individuals to be prudent in where they put their own money. Sums above £10,000 will not be covered by the scheme.

The money will be raised by a levy on banks and deposit-takers with an initial minimum of £2,500 and a maximum initial contribution of £300,000 from the big clearing banks.

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um of £300,000 although no

bank can be made to contribute more than 0.3 per cent of its deposits in total.

However the building societies told the Government last summer that they would bail out any member society which ran into trouble.

## 'Mass hysteria' at Amersham issue

By Our Financial Staff

In the wake of British Aerospace (3½ times over-subscribed), Cable & Wireless (5½ times over-subscribed) and the private sector money broker Exco (75 times over-subscribed), the Amersham rush of 20 times is barely surprising.

But it has raised the same questions — particularly sensitive in the case of political sale — about whether this is the best way to go public.

It is argued by merchant banks and stock brokers that stage has made little or no profit from recent heavily oversubscribed issues.

An investor who is allocated only 5 per cent of the shares for which he has

applied, and may have to wait up to a week for the share of quoted, incurs heavy interest charges in the meantime.

The alternative of inviting investors to tender for shares in considered less preferable — if more decorous — on two grounds.

Fewer small investors are likely to apply or succeed, and it has never tried for so large an offering as Amersham's £25m. The lukewarm response to Habitat's £9.5m tender offer is cited in evidence.

But it is also admitted that the Government might gain more from a tender. Amersham is expected to net the Government £61m.

Business Editor, page 17

## Backing for 2½ year wage freeze

From Christopher Thomas, New York, Feb 18

Union leaders at the Ford Motor Company in Chicago today approved a wage and benefit agreement under which employees would accept a 2½ year wage freeze in return for job security.

Local leaders of the United Auto Workers voted 132 to 12 in favour of the deal. The next step to final ratification is a ballot of 150,000 union members to be completed by February 28.

The deal, which both the union and company negotiators called "historic," aims to help Ford out of its financial plight after a three year sales slump.

Some workers claim that too much has been given away in return for vague guarantees on job security. But with a third of the company's 106,000 production workers laid off, there are few signs of militancy.

The proposed agreement would eliminate the annual 3 per cent salary increase and reduce holidays. For nine months it would also freeze arrangements for automatic pay increases based on increases in the consumer price index.

The unions apparently felt that the company's position was so weak that substantial concessions were inevitable. The company has made cumulative losses of £2,500m (£1.358m) in the past two years. The new two-year deal is due to begin in September.

The United Auto Workers faces a similar crisis at General Motors.

## TELECOM 'AHEAD OF MERCURY'

British Telecom intends to have its new high-speed inter-city telecommunications links in operation at least six months before the Mercury consortium completes its planned 800 mile fibre optic cabling network. The Telecom plan is based on one which has been employed in London for a year, called the London Overlay Network, which has been profitably operating since last March. On New Year's Eve it announced that it would pay a dividend and had ordered an accountants' report into its financials.

Eurolane was brought to market by the small issuing house Securities, King's Lynn, last March, making a profit of £335,000. On New Year's Eve it announced that it would pay a substantial loss, not

make a dividend and had

ordered an accountants' report into its financials.

## The Trans-Oceanic Trust Limited

Managed by J. Henry Schroder Wag & Co. Limited

The Annual General Meeting was held at 120 Cheapside, London EC2 on Thursday, 18th February, 1982 at 10.30 am.

The following is a summary of the Report by the Directors for the year ended 31st October, 1981.

1981 1980

Total Revenue	£1,705,118	£1,730,061
Revenue after taxation and expenses	£ 950,378	£ 940,407
Earnings per Ordinary Share	2.58p	2.55p
Ordinary dividends for the year net per share	2.50p	2.33p
Net asset value per 25p Ordinary Share	111.3p	99.7p

In his Statement in the Annual Report the Chairman commented:

The last financial year has been relatively successful for your Company as it has benefited from the changes made to its portfolio in 1980. The move, at the time, of a substantial proportion of the Company's assets from the U.K. to overseas stock markets with particular emphasis on the U.S.A. has resulted in an appreciation in value which might not otherwise have taken place given the poor performance of the London stock market. The major cause of this appreciation has been the weakness of Sterling. Overseas stock markets in the main have produced a lacklustre performance similar to that of the London market.

It is also pleasing to note that the Trust's income increased over the year despite some U.K. companies cutting their dividends. This increase is attributable to the high interest rates earned on the Company's uninvested cash. As a significant proportion of this cash was held in the U.S.A. in Dollars, the Company not only benefited from the high interest rates available there, but also the appreciation of the Dollar against Sterling. In addition, income received as commission from underwriting share issues was at a high level. The outcome has been that the Directors of your Company have been able to recommend a dividend increase in spite of the difficult economic conditions experienced in 1981 and the loss of franked income to the Company by the increased emphasis on overseas investment.

The proportion of the Company's assets now invested in the U.S.A. exceeds 45%, while in the U.K. this figure has fallen to approximately 38%, including uninvest

## Uneasiness over gold... anxiety over engineering

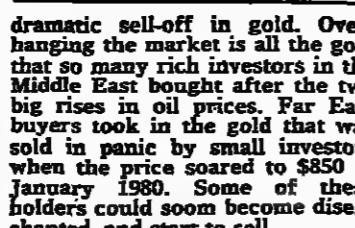
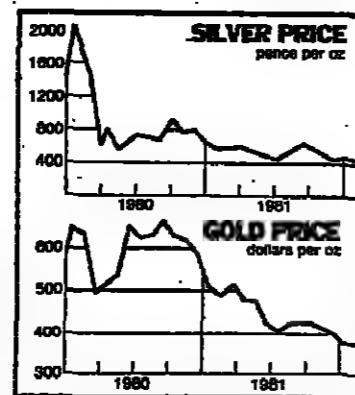
### Selling by Russians hits price

A nervous gold market was asking yesterday who is going to "do a Joe Granville" on gold after prices fell heavily on reports of Russian sales and panic small investors (Sally White writes). Technically it is possible for the charts to see a fall back to the \$250 level, although the pattern of trading at present is for small falls and then rallies.

Gold had been trading fairly happily for the last few weeks about the \$370 or \$380 level. Dealers have been made nervous by selling by the Singapore central bank last week, which put a lot of physical gold on the market. Then the Zurich market saw heavy sales starting around 9 o'clock yesterday morning by the Russians that dealers said continued for about 2 hours. That took price down to a low of around \$366.

Fundamentals on gold are good. Industrial demand is taking up supplies put on to the market. The latest report from J. Aron from the United States gold house is that supplies are likely to remain tight relative to demand in 1982 as a whole.

But there has not been a



investors were happy with the price of gold, gold mining shares were looking too high. While he is not saying that prices will immediately fall, he would be much happier if the shares were 20 per cent or so lower.

There are a number of reasons for being nervous about the gold market. Economists and bankers are still looking for much higher interest rates in the United States, some to a level above last year's record. Investors have been switching their money into dollars and dollar instruments, hoping to benefit from the high yields and also capital gain. High interest rates in the United States usually depresses gold and other dollar dominated commodities, and restricts margin trading.

Another problem is not so much the gold that the Russians sell, but the psychological impact of their sudden descent on the markets. Usually the Russians make their sales when the market is looking fairly resilient, but when other large physical holders are also selling, then gloom prevails.

The next chart point is a long way down, and the price has to go through the \$350 and \$300. A lot could happen before then. As one chartist said: "President Reagan is doing a U-turn, and we would be back to low US interest rates."

Meanwhile, the chartists who are watching the firm has been saying for some little time now that even given

the period to reduce borrowings. He is now assisting the receivers.

Kitchen Queen which was brought to market by Halliday, Simpson, the former Manchester stockbrokers, was taken over by Moban directors when Mr Neville Brierley, Kitchen Queen's chairman, suddenly resigned and sold most of his shares after the group announced an unexpected loss.

Losses at the time Mr Brierley bought Kitchen Queen were said to be unquantifiable. Mr Brierley said yesterday that losses when he too over were substantial.

**OZALID**

**More losses**

Ozalid, the reprographic group whose directors were heavily criticized in a Department of Trade report in 1980, has plunged deeper into a loss.

In the year to November, Ozalid made a pre-tax loss of £4.9m compared with £1.9m

to any trade association or company as he is obliged to be under Stock Exchange rules if it becomes apparent that any of their employees or members were involved.

He could not rule out the possibility of any other stockbroking firm being involved, but neither, at this stage, could he say that.

"We are not going to leave stones unturned that need to be turned. If we need the help of some other authority we would ask them, like the Department of Trade or the Comptroller for the Securities Industry. But we might well end up not knowing the answer."

The investigation into Halliday, Simpson reached the merchant banking group Arbuthnot, Latham, now part of Dow Scandia. Sir Trevor Dawson and Mr Michael Barrett chairman and managing director of its unit trust offshoot were suspended in connection with the Exchange probe and subsequently decided to close, was completed just before Christmas.

Disciplinary proceedings are being taken against the firm's partners.

The Exchange has decided to give its internal report to the Director of Public Prosecutions until these proceedings are complete.

Yesterday, Sir Nicholas Goodison, Stock Exchange chairman declined to acknowledge that disciplinary hearings, thought to be set for next month, were taking place.

But added: "Our investigations are not finished. We have a number of leads which have to be followed up. There are a number of outside people involved, but that does not mean to say there is any wrongdoing that they have done anything wrong."

"It's just that one wants to get to the bottom of any pattern of dealings."

He said he had not spoken

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on profits per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. \* Gross payments. \*\* Loss.

Company Total Profits Earnings Div. per share Pay date Year to date

Company	Total £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div. pence	Pay date	Year to date
H J Baskett (I)	1.18(1.26)	0.05(0.16)	1.61(2.03)	—(—)	28/4	—(—)
Cham. Inv. (P)	—(—)	0.41(0.39)	40.6(37.50)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Good. Durrant (P)	61.74(6.04)	8.31(7.79)	8.1(6.8)	80.0(7.7)	30/3	0.60(7.7)
Metal Bhd. (P)	4.04(3.45)	0.81(0.78)	8.91(8.75)	3.5(—)	—	5.6(5.7)
Met. Corp. (P)	11(11.57)	0.24(0.23)	8.4(8.4)	2.3(2.3)	2/4	8.1(7.7)
Met. Corp. (P)	—(—)	0.03(0.041)	1.38(1.38)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Min. Ransom (P)	1.51(1.34)	0.19(0.15)	4.83(5.07)	1.5(1.5)	7/4	—(—)
Midland (P)	10.10(5.56)	—(—)	0.70(0.7)	4.8(—)	4/5	—(—)
W. Whittingham (P)	27.82(7.94)	2.98(2.84)	40.43(3.98)	4.7(4.5)	30/4	76.7(7.8)
Y. Young (P)	1.92(1.63)	0.03(0.022)	4.85(4.85)	—(—)	—	—(—)

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## INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

## PEOPLE

## Richardson: a billion pound man

I say in the confidence of offending nearly everyone that one man stands behind the staggering way more than £1,000m has been put down on Amersham International. This is the highest of high technology new issues in radio chemistry, with the ultimate in investment accounted for. It is unique. The man is Michael Richardson, 56, of Rothschilds, recruited from the bluest of blue-blooded stockbrokers, Cazenove. As it happens Cazenove are brokers to this lucrative issue.

Modestly, Richardson denies that the offer for sale (which ensures that the public as well as a few institutions end up owning Amersham) was ideal or even peculiarly his idea.

But his success does highlight the way Rothschild, Morgan Grenfell and Warburg have come to the top of the new issue heap virtually together.

Coincidentally or not, they all recruited top stockbrokers to beef up this side of their business. There is Richardson at Rothschilds, Bill Mackworth-Young (formerly of Rowe and Pitman) is at Morgan Grenfell, and Simon Garmoyle, who used to be at Scargroves, helps out at Warburg. Other merchant banks with taste for new issue business please note.



"Of course he's overweight, poor mite. It's all that nasty lead he gets out of the petrol!"

Where was Heron Corporation's chief executive Gerald Ronson when news of his bigger offer for ACC was announced yesterday?

He was not behind his desk but amid a bevy of balloons and go-go dancers at the Mayfair Theatre. There Heron's American business partners, the video game manufacturer Atari, was announcing its 1982 plans for this country.

## Sy Grann is no lounge lizard

A small factory estate on the outskirts of Harlow has become the centre of the fashion-conscious shoe trade. For Sy Grann, who is managing director of ROBA UK, a fast-growing international freight forwarding company, has discovered a source for lizard skins. Not just ordinary skins, but the rare teju lizard skins.

When Mr Grann recently found a source for baby crocodile skins, his customer was so pleased he gave him a pair of hand-made baby crocodile skin shoes which cost around £320 a pair.

The Stock Exchange is chucking over the story of the man who wrote to a newspaper: "I suffer from dry eyes (inability to shed tears). What do you recommend?" Reply: "See your doctor. If no success, see your Tax Inspector".

## Computers for tout le monde

If you cannot beat them, join them. That appears to be the conclusion drawn by France's Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber to the prospect of computers increasingly taking over jobs presently carried out by human beings.

His World Centre for Micro-computers and Human Resources is due to open shortly in Paris. The centre will develop a small easy-to-use micro-computer, expected to sell at between £40 and £80, and examine how ordinary people can be taught to use it.

Servan-Schreiber is best known abroad for the book he brought out in the 1960's on American multinationals in Europe, "The American Challenge."

Peter Wainwright

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

Dr S. J. Ford has been appointed managing director of The British Aluminum Company. He succeeds Mr L. S. F. Charles, who retired but remains on the board as a non-executive director.

Mr John Robertshaw chairman of United Scientific Holdings, has been appointed a director of The Technology and Innovations Exchange (TIE) and chairman of its financial panel.

Sir John Prudeux has been appointed to the board of Dow Scandia Banking Corporation.

## Letting another watchdog loose on state industries



The controller, Mr Gordon Downey, (left) cannot get access to nationalised industry accounts. Mr Joel Barnett thinks it vital he is given more power.

parties) who saw the issue as the latest chapter in the battle between ministerial prerogative and Parliament's power to monitor and approve public spending. One Conservative MP, Sir Albert Costain, went so far as to say the Government was fortunate there was no vote because for the first time in his life he would have voted against it.

Mr Edward Du Cann, chairman of the powerful Treasury and Civil Services Committee and a former chairman of the PAC said in the November debate that MPs should be ashamed that more types of public expenditure escaped audit than in any other comparable country in the world.

The White Paper, Mr Du Cann said, was a "timid, trivial and disappointing document".

Additionally, professional advisers including management consultants would be brought in to help the staff of the MMC. The Committee's reports would continue to be published and in the interests of Parliament, said Mr Nicholas Ridley, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, the industry's response to the report would also be available within three or four months of publication.

But in recent weeks, the views of ministers, especially of the Secretary of State for Energy Mr Nigel Lawson,

Industry Secretary Mr Patrick Jenkin and Mr David Howell, the Transport Minister, have hardened around the major principle of ministerial responsibility.

The Government was not prepared to let the PAC and the Comptroller and Auditor General into the nationalised industries' accounts. He has insufficient experience in handling the affairs of a commercial, public organisation.

"Enough is enough", says Mr Driscoll. "The present arrangements for looking at our books are perfectly satisfactory. There is no benefit in bringing in the Comptroller and Auditor General into the nationalised industries' accounts. He has

insufficient experience in handling the affairs of a commercial, public organisation.

"In the battle of the Titans, it is best to keep your head below the parapet."

"The Parliamentary champion of reform, Mr Joel Barnett, formerly Chief Secretary to the Treasury clearly feels the issue is of major importance to Parliament.

Those views are mirrored by the Nationalized Industries' Chairmen's Group (NIGC). Its director Mr Jim Driscoll admits the principle of public accountability, but adds there is a need to strike a balance between the public's requirements and the demands of running a business.

Already, the industries are subject to parliamentary questions, examination by the Select Committee on Industry, consumer councils, letters from MPs to chairmen which are given high priority, and audits by external firms of accountants. Additionally the NIGC approved, albeit in a lukewarm fashion, the extended role of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

"If the Government is not sensible on this matter, then there will be fierce resistance from backbenchers".

It seems unlikely that Mr

Kevin Page

## Why the robot army is smaller than it seems

## TECHNOLOGY: AUTOMATION

By Clive Cookson

Japan already has 100,000 industrial robots and the Soviet Union will have 100,000 by 1985. Even France boasts 38,000 robots. But backward Britain can claim only a few hundred by the best estimate.

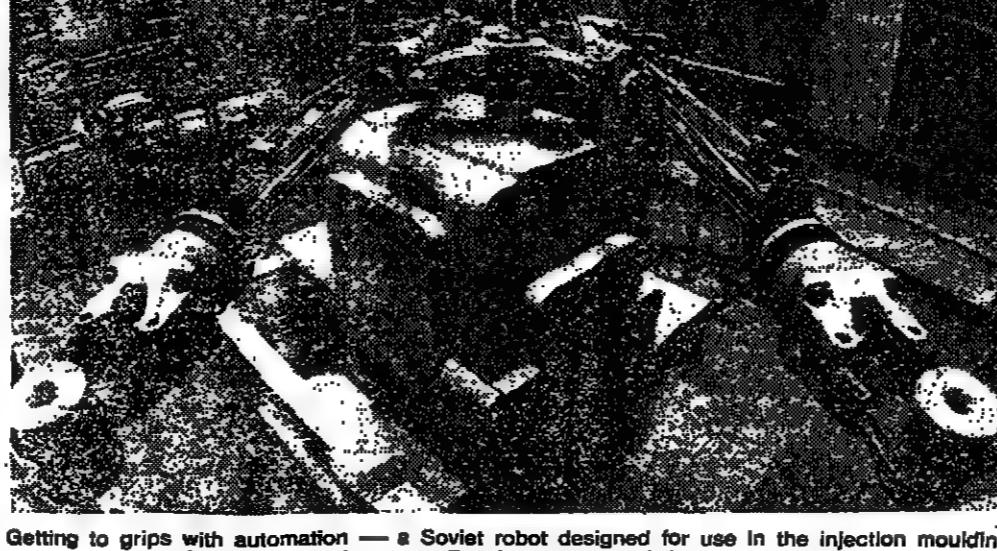
That dismal impression of this country's performance in robotics could have been picked up by a casual (and, admittedly, selective) reading of newspaper reports over the past few months. The reality, as usual, is not nearly so depressing.

The main trouble is that some countries inflate their robot populations, deliberately or otherwise, by adopting a far wider definition of the term than the one recognised in Britain and the United States. In vast majority of the "100,000 robots" identified by a recent Japanese survey are either non-robotic "manual manipulators" operated directly by humans or simple "pick and place" machines following a fixed sequence of actions. Neither category should be dignified by the label "robot".

A true robot must be reprogrammable and must be able to manipulate and transport parts or tools through a variety of movements. When it is no longer needed for one set of tasks, its electronic brain can be programmed to perform another sequence.

The Japanese may not have set out to overawe us with visions of a vast army of industrial robots; it could just be a genuine difference in terminology. But Mr Tom Brock, executive secretary of the British Robot Association (BRA), insists that the French have gone in for deliberate exaggeration in pursuit of national glory. He quotes a recent claim that France has 28,000 industrial robots. "If you check with the French they will swear to their figures because they want to be Europe's number one in robots," Mr Brock said.

The BRA gives Britain a respectable fifth place in the world robot league. Its annual census, announced last week, showed that the UK robot population increased by 50 per cent during 1981 and stood at 731 at the end of the year. First came Japan with 10,000 industrial robots, fol-



Getting to grips with automation — a Soviet robot designed for use in the injection moulding process on show at the recent Russian Economic Achievement Exhibition.

lowed by the United States (5,000), West Germany (2,300) and Sweden (1,700).

According to the BRA, Britain has moved ahead of its closest European rivals, France and Italy, despite the £8m that Renault has spent on robot research and development over the past six years. Olivetti's leading role in robot design, and Fiat's early commitment to robotics in car manufacturing.

France is given 600 robots and Italy 450 (only 50 more than a year ago). Other Western countries have 1,500 between them.

The BRA is one of the few authorities to place less than half of the world robot population in Japan. Others give the Japanese a more commanding lead. For example, the Robot Institute of America estimated last year that Japan had 14,200 robots compared to just over 4,000 in the United States.

Inbucor, the large British management consultancy whose study *Industrial Robots in Japan, USA and UK* was published this month, says: "Secretiveness about the extent of robot utilization in many Japanese companies makes it difficult to judge the real extent of robot use in that country.

"In Japan this secrecy is facilitated by well-established lateral industrial relationships which, whilst making it difficult for Mitsubishi Heavy Industries to supply its robots to Toyota, for

example, also ensures that Mitsubishi Motors' technological applications are not leaked to its rivals in other groups," the Inbucor report says.

In contradiction to the BRA, Inbucor states: "Despite these statistical uncertainties, it is quite clear that over half the robots working in the world today are in use in Japan."

The problem of secretiveness is of course far worse with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The Russians are known to be making a major drive to install robots in their factories.

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Barnett, Mr Du Cann and their supporters will be fully satisfied in their desire for a national audit office (which could be headed by the comptroller and Auditor General) and the right of Parliament rather than the Prime Minister to recommend the appointment to the Crown of the Comptroller and Auditor General. But neither will ministers win their battle to keep full control of the nationalised industries' accounts within their departments.

For it appears that the Treasury, which opposed the PAC last November, is now working our a compromise. Although ministers could not agree on a solution to the issue in the Cabinets E (Economic) Committee last week, discussion is not at an end.

Talks will be held between the Treasury, ministers and probably Mr Barnett and his PAC colleagues before the issue goes into the E committee within the next two weeks.

There are two possible compromises. First, the Comptroller and Auditor General might be involved in nationalised industries audits as a back-up service to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Second, the House of Commons Select Committee on Nationalized Industries could be resurrected. This was abolished in 1979 to make way for general-purpose Industry and Trade Committee.

Whether these compromises will satisfy the PAC and the backbenchers who signed the motion criticising the White Paper is another matter. The NIGC may feel that the PAC proposal in favour of the Comptroller and Auditor General is more time-consuming than the present arrangement of papers which would duplicate current practice.

But Mr Barnett and his colleagues have the overriding principle of public accountability for public money behind them.

And they could have an ally in the form of the Prime Minister.

Mrs Thatcher is keen to make the public sector more efficient. The Think Tank, which reported on this matter last year, has been instructed to keep a watching brief on ways to improve the performance of the nationalised industries. Such support could be decisive in the battle between Parliament and Government.

It seems unlikely that Mr

Kevin Page

## Business Editor

## More pieces for the jigsaw

It has been something of a puzzle trying to reconcile the mid-winter faltering in industrial output with the rapid build-up of bank lending. The latest figures putting the rise in the six weeks to mid-January at an uncomfortable £1,680m.

Part of

the rise in bank lending has, of course, been attributable to the sharp rise in mortgage lending by the banks, together with borrowing to finance tax payments deferred during the civil servants' dispute.

But after yesterday's

figures for manufacturers and distributors, it seems clear that the good deal of the rise can only be put down to a virtual end to destocking in the fourth quarter of last year.

That, of course, does not

square the circle completely, since it does not fit in cleanly with the temporary lags in industrial output. The missing link here must be higher imports.

None of this in any case

gives us any definite evidence as to which way the economy is likely to move in the immediate future.

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## Today's television and radio programmes

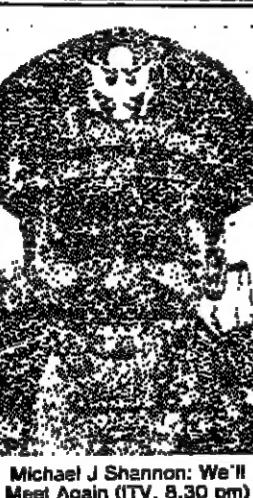
Edited by Peter Davall

## BBC 1

10 Open University, Control Systems: Perceiving the World, Potsdam (1). 9.05 For Schools. Biology: Play Tennis; Book and Read. 11.15: The Price of Art (antwerp); Talkabout: Going to Work. Plants (1). Action: 12.30 News After Noon: 12.57am. Technical Report. And news headlines: 1.00. 1.00 News: 1.00. 1.45 Suspense: for the tiny tots; 2.20 For the Younger: 2.25 Scene — Britain's clear Defence (1) and 2.35 A Good Job with prospects: Taking Responsibility (1); 3.20 Pobably not serial in Welsh; 3.55 Play School: see BBC at 11.00 am for details.

20 Winsome Witch: cartoon: 4.25 Jackanory; Prunella Scales reads part five of Bogopopolit, by Ursula Moray Williams. 40 Finders Keepers: Inter-school electronic battleships game. Becketton pupils versus Kenilworth pupils. Richard Stilgoe is referee. 45 Grange Hill: school serial, part 14. Clare lets her secret passion out of the bag; 5.35 Ivar the Engine: The Cuckoo Clock (1). 40 News: with Jan Leeming: 5.00 South East at: 6.22 Nationalwide: with Desmond Lyman's Sportswide at 6.45. 40 Thanks a Million: Terry Wogan on the result of the Children in Need appeal. 10 The Superstars: Eight sportswomen compete for the Ferguson Championship. They are Shirley Strong, Verona Elder, Shirley Mitchell, Jane Bridge, Muriel Thompson, Margaret Kelly, Karen Morse and Suzanne Dando. 40 Fame is the Spur: Episode 7. Labour's split on pacifism gives Harker his big chance. 50 Points of View: with Barry Took.

1.00 News: with John Simpson. And weather prospects for the weekend. 1.25 McClain's Law: After last week's curtain-raiser, the new drama series begins. Former Police officer Jim McClain (James Arness) swears to kill the killer of a young narcotics agent. He sets a trap. 1.15 Ballroom Champions: The United Kingdom Championships, from the Hammersmith Palais. Couples compete for the Amateur Modern and the Professional Latin American titles. The music is provided by Andy Ross. Next Friday: the amateur modern and professional Latin American titles. 1.35 Film: You Only Live Once (1937) Drama, directed by Fritz Lang, about a criminal who tries to go straight but finds the cards are stacked against him. Starring Henry Fonda and, as the girl who tries to help him keep to the straight and narrow, Sylvia Sidney. Also starring Barton MacLane, James Dixon and William Gargan. Ends at 1.05 am.



Michael J. Shannon: We'll Meet Again (ITV, 8.30 pm)

## BBC 2

6.40 Open University, Biology Form and Function: 7.05 Ecology; 7.30 Making the Connections; 11.00 Play School: Margaret Kidd's story Shobhana. With Marilyn Hirsh's illustrations. (also on BBC 1, at 3.55); 11.25 Closeup: 3.55 Around with Allies: Allies in the Kitchen in which Peter Alliss combines the roles of golfer and interviewer. Today, he plays against, and chats with, Group Captain Douglas Bader. You might remember Kenneth More, as Bader in Reach for the Sky, bravely driving off on the golf course despite his physical handicap (1).

4.25 The Glazebrook Touch. A second chance to see this young, up-and-coming director about Bob Glazebrook, who looks after 100 grand pianos as Steinway's senior concert technicians (1). 5.10 Party Imperial: City life in the 19th Century (1); 5.35 Weekend Outlook: Open University programme preview. 5.40 Film: Sherlock Holmes: Pearl of Death (1944) The murderous Creeper is on the prowl. With Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce, Rondo Hatton. 6.45 Heroes: Chris Bonington's idols include Churchill and Felicity Kendal. 7.15 The Oxford Road Show: live from Manchester; 7.35 News. 8.00 Gardeners' World: it's sowing time again. 8.25 Newsweek: Proportional Representation: is it inevitable?

9.00 News: with John Simpson. And weather prospects for the weekend. 9.25 Playhouse: The Workshop. Tom Kempinski's translation of Jean-Claude Grumberg's play. Starring Lynn Farleigh, Lee Montague and Caroline Hutchinson. Tom Kempinski is, perhaps, best-known for his award-winning play Dueles for One. The setting is a tailoring workshop in Paris in 1945. The theme is renewal. 10.50 Newsnight: bulletins and comment. 11.35 Friday Night... Saturday Morning. The host tonight is Germaine Greer and the theme of the chat is 'Sex'. 12.30 Thriller: Once the Killing Starts: There's a blacked-out attempt after a professor has been killed so that he can continue his romance with one of his students. With Patrick O'Neal, Angharad Rees, Michael Kitchen. 12.55 Close: with Elisabeth Lutyens.

9.35 For Schools. The line-up is: Reading with Lenny; How We Used to Live; 1.2.3 Go; Physics in Action: Geography; Alive and Kicking; Stop Look Listen: Documentary Re-run; 11.15 Comic Stories; 12.00 Some Book: with Kathy Jones, Leo Dowd, Hedley Kay; 12.10 Once Upon a Time; with Peter Davison; 12.30 Simple Sewing: How to make simple Channel-type shorts; 1.00 News: 1.00. 1.20 The High Road: Scottish estate serial: 2.00 Afternoon Plus: Elaine Grand interviews Blossom Dearie, the American singer and song writer; 2.45 Film: A Cup of Kindness (1934) Old British comedy about a feud between two families, and a spot of blackmail. Starring Tom Walls, Ralph Lynn, Robertson Hare, the famous Aldwych farce trio.

4.15 Dr Snuggles: with Peter Ustinov's voice (1); 4.20 Razzamatazz: Pop music show. With Haircut 100, Depeche Mode, The Nolans. 4.45 Jukes of Piccadilly: Comedy drama with Nigel Hawthorne as the amateur sleuth. Episode 2: The Silverton Green, which is about an escaped prisoner, a hidden branch, and a wedding. 5.15 Square One: The Joe Brown board game. Star guests are Dave Lee Travis and Sally Wattis. It's all in aid of charity. 5.45 News: 6.00 The 6 o'clock Show: The lighter side of the news scene. With Michael Aspel and Janet Street-Porter. And Fred Housego. 7.00 Family Fortune Quiz. The Colmans of Leyton against the Westgate of Norwich. 7.30 Hawaii Five-O: McGarrett poses as a merchant seaman to forestall a waterfront strike with Jack Lord. 8.30 We'll Meet Again: New drama series about the impact on a quiet Suffolk village of a contingent of US Air Force men in the Second World War. Starring Susanna York (see Choice)

9.00 Great Families of Britain: A series of radio portraits (5) The Percy of Northumberland. 11.50 Bird of the Week: The mistle thrush. 12.00 News. 12.02 You and Your: My Word! Panel Game! 1.00 The World at One. 1.40 The Archers. 2.00 News: 2.00. 2.30 Home's Hour. 3.00 News. 4.20 Pier: "The Last Recording" by Douglas Slater! 4.05 Poetry Please! 4.15 Victims (new series) Who Are the Victims? 4.45 Story Time: "An Old Captivity" by Neville Shute (final part). 5.00 News and Financial Report. 6.30 Going Places. 7.00 The Archers. 7.20 Pick of the Week! 8.10 The Week in Syndy.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1 MF 1053kHz/285m or 1089kHz/275m. Radio 2 MF 693kHz/433m or 909kHz/330m. Radio 1/2 VHF 88-91MHz. Radio 3 VHF 9-0.25MHz, MF 1215kHz/247m. Radio 4 LF 2000kHz/1500m, VHF 95.8MHz. BBC Radio London MF 1458kHz/205m and VHF 94.9MHz; World Service

9.00 News Shred. 9.30 Political Assessment. 10.45 Daily Services. 10.45 Radio 4. 11.15 Book at Bedtime: "Charmed Lives" by Michael Korda (final part). 11.15 Financial World Tonight. 11.20 Today in Parliament. 11.45 Glyn Worsop delves into the BBC Sound Archives. 12.00 News and Weather.

9.05 Any Questions? 9.15 Queen's Free Chapel of St George, Windsor Castle. 9.50 News: 9.50 Mainly for Pleasure. 10.00 Agatha Christie's review of tomorrow's programme with Nicholas Anderson. 7.00 Vaughan Williams on record. 7.30 The Last Waltz: Schubert. 8.00 Parkin/Fleming/Roberts Trio recitals. 9.15 A Country Tapestry. An arrangement of poetry and prose. 9.30 Concert, Part 2. 10.00 Music in our Time: Music from the 19th century. 10.30 The Music of Composers: Myke Roy. To Northam, Jean Picke. 10.45 Books, Music and Lyrics. A new series of musicals from Robert Cushman. 11.00 News. 11.15 Scrabian, On record. 5.55 VHIF ONLY — Open University.

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# New study shows risk of delay in starting a family

From Peter Watson, New York, Feb 18

Many professional women now weigh carefully the question of when to have children. Particularly, they ask themselves whether they should delay childbirth until after they are 30 in exchange for career development.

An important, large-scale French study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* reveals that the risks of a delay are greater than doctors had believed. It shows that the fecundity of women declines significantly after 31, and markedly after 35. The *Journal* concludes in an editorial that women may have to think again about delaying childbirth beyond the third decade of their lives.

It has been known for some time that older women face more difficulties in having children than do younger ones. But until now it has always been very difficult to calculate exactly how a woman's fecundity changes with age, for two reasons:

First, it is not always possible to tell whether the woman or the man is the source of the problem. Women and husbands grow old together and male fecundity may also decline with age. Second, sexual intercourse becomes less frequent as a marriage grows longer and this clearly affects the figures.

The French study, carried out jointly by doctors at the Centre d'Etude et de Conservation du Sperm Human and the Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Sociale, goes round this by looking at 2,193 women who had been inseminated artificially by fresh sperm.

The conditions of insemination were closely controlled at 11 centres around the country and so the age and sterility of the fathers was not a confounding factor in the results, and neither was the frequency of intercourse.

The results showed that after 12 cycles of artificial

## Down Mont Blanc by car

Paris, Feb 18.—A French stuntman who drove a car nearly a mile down the east face of Mont Blanc (15,770ft) yesterday, said afterwards: "I'm in a difficult field. You have to have stunts that are original and dangerous if you want to be known in this line of work."

Michael Chirouze, aged 37, made his record plunge in temperatures as low as -33°C with the wind gusting up to 90 mph down ice-packed slopes.

A helicopter lifted his Peugeot 104 to the Italian side of the mountain to begin his descent. The French banned him using their side.

## Foot asks Pym for statement on 'Times'

Continued from page 1

"Nevertheless, it is now accepted that the validity of a transfer, albeit a transfer within the same group, without the consent of the independent directors, may well be open to doubt. I understand that accordingly NIL has reversed the transfers already made; I also understand that a meeting of the independent national directors has been arranged at which NIL will seek consent to a transfer of titles, subject to suitable safeguards. At present, therefore, the matter is one primarily for the independent national directors."

News International last night said that the boards of both TNL and NIL had yesterday agreed to rescind the December decision "with the result that Times Newspapers Ltd has resumed absolute ownership of those titles".

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, said he was "very glad" that the transfer of titles was not to go ahead. Answering Commons questions to Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the House, Mr Foot said he hoped the Government was now turning its mind to the next question — how The Times newspapers may be saved. "I hope Mr Pym will agree to have a statement made to the House next week, especially in the light of developments which took place about the transfer." Mr Pym said he would pass the request to Mr Biffen.

Last night Mr John Smith, Labour MP for Lancashire North, who earlier this week tabled a series of Parliament's questions to Mr Biffen on the transfers, said that the "sur-reptitious exemption" of the papers' proprietor Mr Rupert Murdoch from the titles had "backfired" on him.

The whole episode smacked of "sharp practice" and showed how lightly Mr Murdoch regarded any inconvenience obligations. Mr Smith extremely indulgent in the way he has let Mr Murdoch off the hook. It is now up to the independent directors to look at any transfer of the titles with the greatest care".

Mr Noel Howell, National Union of Journalists' national organiser for Fleet Street said last night that the unions would immediately to urge them not to support a fresh transfer of the titles.

"Some physicians may also discuss the elevated risks of spontaneous abortion and perinatal death among women in older age groups. In addition the age of a woman should now be considered in deciding when to start an infertility work-up or stop treatment for infertility, and in selecting appropriate candidates for tubal surgery and in vitro fertilization.

Individual and societal goals may also have to be re-evaluated. Perhaps the third decade should be devoted to childbearing and the fourth to career development, rather than the converse, which is true for many women today."

## A man of our times: Sir Kenneth Cork



Rescue mission: Sir Kenneth Cork arrives at the Northern Ireland Offices for discussion on the De Lorean company which, he says needs £25m to stay afloat.

## Wounded woman kills 20 soldiers

Continued from page 1

Hama, tourist haven, Syrian regular troops were digging new fortifications for an assault on Soviet-occupied areas of the city. T-62 tanks and heavy machine guns.

Eleven minutes a yellow-painted armoured jeep would arrive with a clutch of female refugees in the back; they had been brought out of the city after 15 days and they asked for water the moment they stepped out to the road.

The seriousness of the fighting was evident from the words of an Army officer who took the place of the two soldiers in our car. A middle-aged man whose features were made deathly by a fine dust that covered his face and shoulders, he sat in silence for a few moments as we tried to negotiate one of Hama's main boulevards. There were shell holes in the houses, lamp standards and glass across the streets, and every few seconds he would urge us to drive faster as we crossed roads that seemed alive with sniper fire.

"Some of our people, our soldiers, have gone over to the other side," he said after a minute or so. "We are fighting on our people's side. Do you know that we have to fight underground? Those fanatics are fighting us in cellars

with rockets and yesterday we found an underground hospital. There are girls fighting with the 'Ikhwan' (Brotherhood)."

One of them was wounded last night and when we went to capture her, she set off a grenade against her stomach and killed 20 of my friends."

The soldier paused; it was as if we were carrying the tensions of his battle in our car. Every few hundred yards we were stopped by groups of young Baathist militiamen holding automatic rifles, dressed improbably in flared white trousers and tight-fitting black shirts.

Another officer begged a lift. He seemed angry. Why don't they let us fight on God's side?" he asked of his colleague. The two men knew each other — both had their homes in Hama.

A convoy of ambulances drove past an intersection, red lights flashing, setting up a storm of dust along the half-ruined street. Several soldiers sat beside their tanks, covered in sweat and dirt. One of them had his arm in a sling, but a dark red patch was beginning to show through it.

Hama is built on two levels, a lower inner city on the Orontes river where the street bathe are going on, and a higher lip of land where new

apartments and small bungalows have received some shell and mortar fire. There is a road that runs around this hill and when we reached it, for a few seconds, we could see little smoke storms moving upwards from the street beside the river.

Well, yesterday was Asier's day of victory, and we enthusiasts of the Huckfield and District Railway Society organized a special trip to Huckfield, came into sight during the routine Thursday

questions to Mr Foot, the Leader of the House, on the business for next week. "Is the Leader of the House aware that the settlement in the railway dispute provides a complete vindication of the position which Asier has maintained throughout the dispute?", he began.

"Puff, puff, went Mr Huckfield happily. And that was one of his chess."

But virtually the whole afternoon was taken up with talk of muggings and thug kidnapping money from old men — a subject only marginally less frightening for MPs than old people demanding money from MPs, which was the aim of that steering committee lurching round the building with a gang of determined old folk at the wheel.

One terrified old age pensioner, Mr Michael Foot, felt it prudent to join the gang. Three times during Prime Minister's questions he got up to ask questions of his own.

Asier, the British Rail Board, had heard my reply. "He has gained nothing that it could not have had last July," he continued. "Could the Leader of the House arrange for a statement next week on the future policy of the railway industry and on the future policy of the chairman?"

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From the air or by gun, we asked? But she did not know. "They bombed the mosque," was all she said several times.

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## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

Royal engagements  
The Queen holds an Investiture, 11.

### New exhibitions

Man to Toulouse-Lautrec: From 11 February to 15 March, Art Gallery & Museum, Kelvin Grove, Glasgow; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (from today until April 12).

Drawings and paintings by students of Camberwell School of Art and Crafts, South London Art Gallery, Peckham Road, SE5; (until Feb 27).

Man to Sat 10 to 6, Sun 3 to 6; (from today until March 4).

Exhibitions in progress  
Indian and Persian Miniatures, Graham Robertson, Royal Pavilion, William Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge; Tues to Sat 2 to 5, Sun 2.15 to 5; (until March 25).

British paintings by David Holmes, City Museum and Art Gallery, Priorygate, Bury St Edmunds; Tues to Sat 12 to 5; (until March 28).

Approaches to Modern Art, National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2; Tues to Sat 10 to 4.50, Sun 2.15 to 4.50; (until March 7).

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